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County
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SOLANO COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

FROM
The California Promotion Committee
San Francisco

The
LAND
of
FRUIT,
GRAIN
and
MONEY

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SOLANO COUNTY

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NORTHERN SOLANO COUNTY NEAR WINTERS, CAL

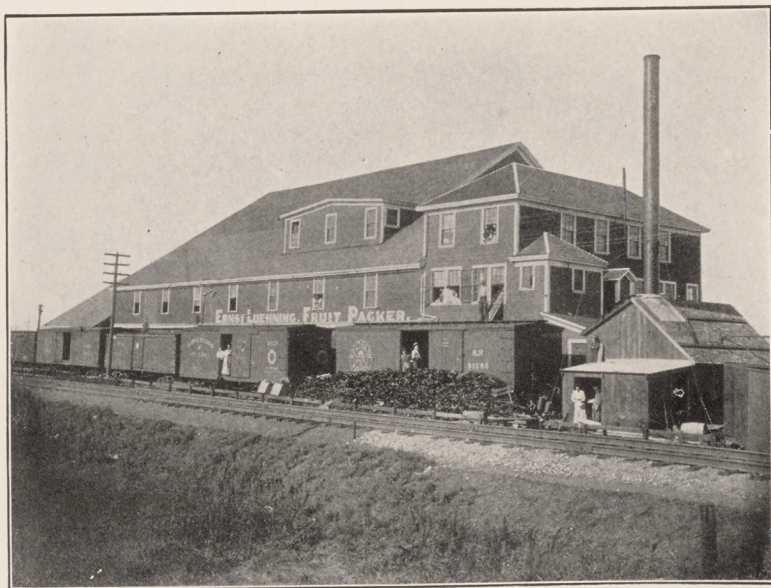
Solano County *California*

Nestled in the foothills of the Coast Range on its Western border, and extending across broad acres of the most fertile land in bounteous California, till its Eastern confines are marked by the majestic Sacramento River, lies Solano County. It is, in part, in the Sacramento Valley, the great stream of Northern California breaking through Solano's hills in the onward rush of ages toward the sea, and thousands of its acres being in the vast area that has been a world's granary for years, its products going to all lands. A quarter of a million acres, nearly half Solano's area, is devoted to grain raising. The wheat grown here is the best milling wheat produced in the State. Thousands of cattle, horses and sheep graze on the upland pastures and marsh lands, and great industrial establishments pay fortunes in wages annually, but the brightest gem in the diadem of resources and industries that marks the County's unquestioned leadership is the fruit produced in its sheltered valleys, a product that has made the county famous far and wide. The first deciduous fruit sold in the United States each year is grown in Solano County, where are several sequestered valleys, with gently rising slopes, sheltered by ranges of high hills that bar the egress of moisture laden clouds in one season and shut out the hot drying winds of another. Here the trees bloom in February and the fruit forms rapidly, ripening beneath the genial heat of the spring season, which is really early summer. In early April the shipments begin and continue until late fall. The soil is unexcelled, even in California, for productiveness, and the fruit raised on the limited

area is sold for millions of dollars annually, returning fortunes to the orchardists of this favored section. Citrus fruits are marketed here a month ahead of the Southern California products.

In the Eastern section of the county where the enterprise of man has wrested broad acres from overflow, is another fabulously rich section, the delta lands of the Sacramento River being noted for their productiveness. In addition, many large industrial establishments are located within the county, a great majority of the people being prosperous wage workers, whose yearly earnings, with the resources of the soil, the products of field, farm and factory, make a story of wealth and prosperity that seems incredible, the income of the county from all sources exceeding the princely sum of **Twenty-Two Million dollars per year.**

This favored section is of a limited area. From east to west its extreme length is forty-five miles, while from north to south the county measures thirty-five miles. The surface of the county is 911 square miles, or 583,000 acres, of which 40,000 acres are water, included in the Sacramento River and Suisun and San Pablo Bays. Besides its great natural resources, or rather because of them, Solano County ranks as one of the strongest counties in California, from a financial view-point. There is not a dollar of county debt, either bonded or floating. Three communities—Vallejo, Suisun and Rio Vista,—own their own water systems and supply their inhabitants at rates at least fifty per cent lower than those paid in cities depending upon private capital for this essential necessity. The real



LOADING CARS AT SUISUN, CAL., WITH FRUIT FOR EASTERN CITIES



PROSPEROUS INDUSTRY AT DIXON, SOLANO COUNTY

property and improvements in the county are worth, at a conservative valuation, \$30,000,000, while the mortgages amount to the comparatively insignificant sum of \$2,666,000, the major portion of which is represented in money invested in home building within municipalities. The enormously rich agricultural and horticultural holdings are practically free of incumbrance.

The tax rate for county purposes is from \$1.00 to \$1.10 on the \$100.00 outside incorporated cities and towns, and 40 cents less inside, where no levy is made for road purposes. The expenditures, while by no means extravagant, are liberal for school, road and hospital expenses. The county salary roll, including township officers, is about \$45,000 per year. The sum of \$50,000 to \$60,000 is annually spent on the roads, which are maintained in excellent condition throughout the year. Public schools cost over \$130,000 per year, of which \$37,500 is raised in the county tax. The sum of \$17,500 is spent sprinkling the roads, and over \$11,000 for the expense of the homeless, sick and indigent.

CLIMATE.

As in other respects, Solano County is greatly favored in climate. The rainy months are from November to March, with desultory rains a month or six weeks earlier and later. The dry season is from six

to eight months. Grain and hay are kept in the field till hauled for shipment. Snow and hail are practically unknown, and frosts rarely do any damage to even delicate plants. The average rainfall is sixteen to twenty inches, though it is greater in the fruit-growing sections. Intense cold is unknown, and at Mare Island Navy Yard and other industrial plants hundreds of men work in the open air the year round. In summer the heat is never oppressive, rarely going above 100 degrees Farh. The nights are cool, a breeze from the ocean coming each day at sunset, cooling the atmosphere, and greatly adding to the health and comfort of the people.

POPULATION.

The population in 1900 was 24,193, and is now estimated at 30,000, of whom nearly one-half live in Vallejo and Benicia, the industrial centers of the county. The county could easily support double its present population.

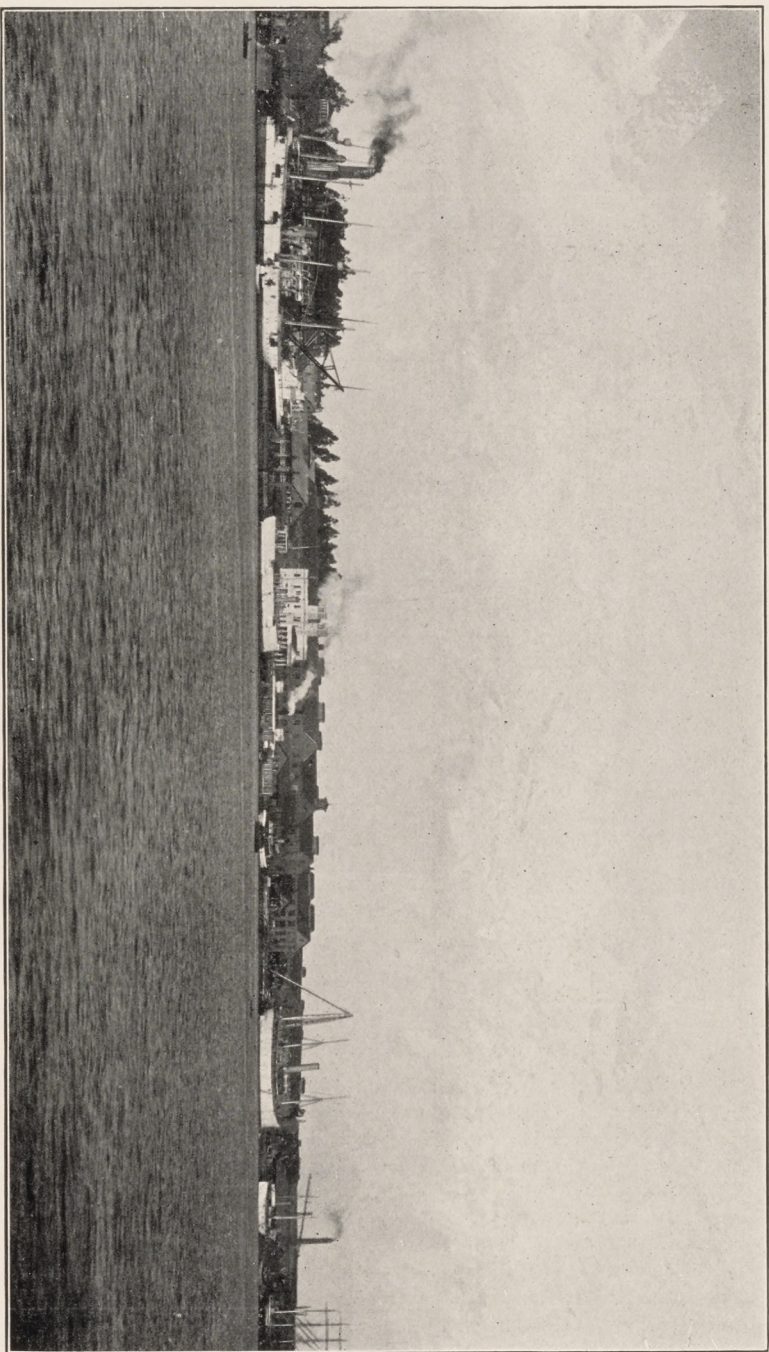
ADAPTABILITY.

The land of Solano County varies in the purposes for which it is adapted, the following table having been compiled by E. N. Eager, when County Surveyor, to show the area available for different modes of cultivation.

No. 1 fruit land.....	53,000 acres
No. 2 fruit or No. 1 grain land.....	240,000 acres
No. 2 grain or No. 1 pasture land.....	75,000 acres
Pasture land.....	45,000 acres
Mountainous grazing land.....	30,000 acres
Marsh or tule land.....	100,000 acres
Water.....	40,000 acres

INDUSTRIES.

The Mare Island Navy Yard, employing 2,000 men, most of whom are skilled mechanics, is the greatest industrial factor in the county. The government also has an army arsenal at Benicia, while among the private enterprises are the Pacific Portland Cement Works, east of Suisun, with a pay roll exceeding \$100,000 annually; the quarry of the E. B. & A. L. Stone Co. at Cordelia, with a capacity of fifty to one hundred car loads of crushed rock daily, beside great quantities of basalt paving blocks and building stone, limited only by the demand; the Starr Mills at South Vallejo, with a capacity of 2500 barrels of flour daily; three tanneries at Benicia and one at Vallejo, with a total annual output of over \$2,000,000; Iron Works at Benicia with an output of 1000 tons daily; canneries at Dixon, Benicia and Rio Vista; fish packing establishments, many cream-



MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD—WAGES PAID IN ONE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1905, \$1,963,000

eries, several fruit packing establishments in Suisun and Vacaville, three wineries at Cordelia, a tule factory at Rio Vista, planing mills and numerous smaller industries. In the aggregate these pay \$3,000,000 in wages during the year. During the fruit season, work is plentiful in Suisun and Vaca Valleys, 3,000 people finding work in the former and 5,000 in the latter. The fruit growers prefer white help to Chinese and Japanese labor, and are making earnest efforts to secure sufficient white labor to handle their product. Men, women and children find remunerative employment in the packing and cutting sheds for many months each year.

POWER.

Power for all purposes is accessible and reasonable in price, the power lines of the Bay Counties Power Company, carrying a voltage of 55,000, traversing the county from end to end. Branch lines to Napa, Sonoma and Marin Counties leave the main line of this corporation at Cordelia, furnishing power to the counties named, while the main line crosses Carquinez Straits between Vallejo and Benicia, with branch lines to both these cities, and conveying power to Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Electric power is utilized for running dairy machinery, pumps for irrigating alfalfa and other fields, and is right at hand for any purpose, from a fractional horse power motor to a gigantic industrial plant employing hundreds of men.

FRUIT.

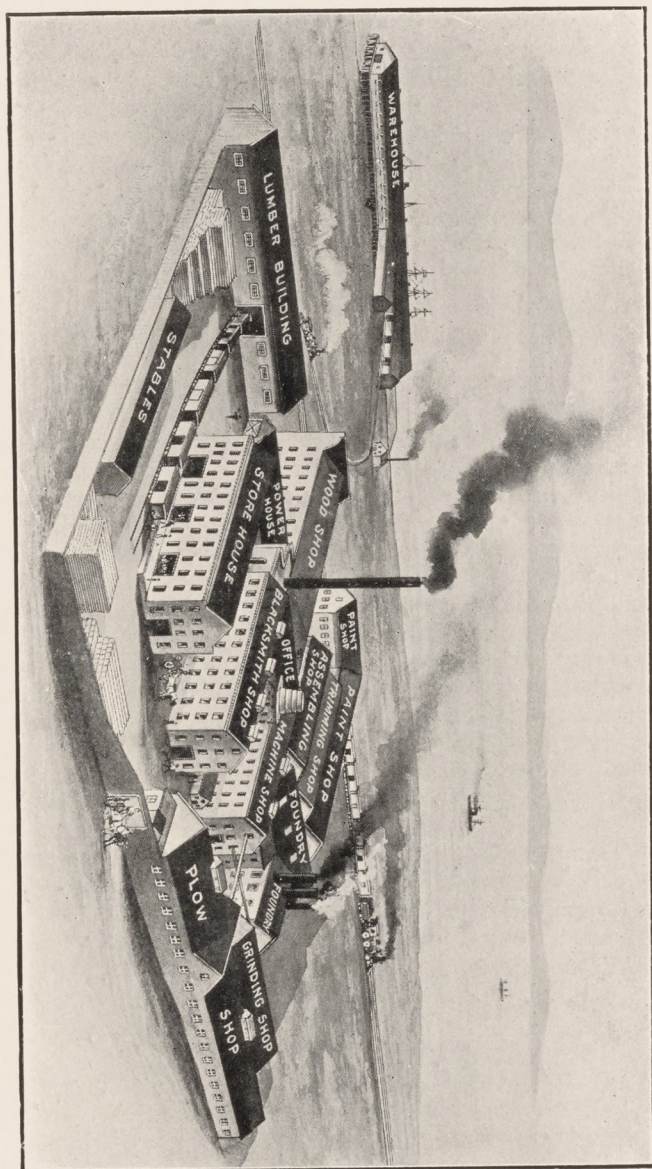
The orchards of Solano County are a source of vast wealth, not only in the value of the product itself, but in the employment of thousands of hands in the fields and packing houses, and in preparing and transporting it to market. The fruit section extends from Green Valley through Suisun, Lagoon, Vaca and Pleasant Valleys and their adjacent hills to Putah Creek, the county boundary, and along the banks of that stream in a belt from two to six and eight miles wide for a distance of twelve or fifteen miles to the Yolo Basin, which forms the eastern boundary of the county. In this splendid fruit belt are over a million trees, deciduous and citrus, with fruit ripening every month in the year. Being the first marketed in the several varieties the highest price is always obtained for the fresh product, while the dried fruit, raised on non-irrigated land, gives the highest percentage of marketable product, some varieties losing but half their weight in evaporation. The knowledge gained by study and experience is utilized in handling and grading the fruit, which is sold at a large profit throughout the United States. Great quantities of fruit are taken by canneries and carried to the consumer in that form, adding to the wealth of the grower, beside giving employment to hundreds of people.

The assessor's list of 1904 gives the following data concern-

ing fruit cultivation, to which may be added approximately five per cent for new trees coming into bearing and increased acreage:

Grapes.....	2200 acres.
Apples.....	2265 trees.
Apricot.....	33,165 trees.

BENICIA IRON WORKS, BENICIA, SOLANO COUNTY



Cherry.....	36,740 trees.
Fig.....	5,430 trees.
Olive.....	3,050 trees.
Peach.....	332,570 trees.
Pear.....	218,540 trees.
French Prunes.....	281,460 trees.
Prunes (varied).....	105,630 trees.
Orange.....	3,440 trees.
Lemon.....	2,130 trees.
Almond.....	100,240 trees.
Walnut.....	3,760 trees.

From the above table it will be seen that the soil is adapted to every variety of fruit grown under the sun. The preponderance of fruits that can be marketed fresh, dried or canned is a note worthy feature, the growers not depending upon any one method of getting the highest returns from their products.

The shipping of fruit is a business by itself. The fresh product is carefully selected, wrapped and packed, and shipped in ventilated refrigerator cars to the Atlantic seaboard. Each car contains ten tons of fruit, and frequently has the product of a dozen or more growers, each being disposed of separately, the incidental cost being divided pro rata. Experienced hands secure steady employment in packing the fruit in crates and boxes, the regular smooth layers of luscious fruit presenting a most attractive appearance, to which may be added the exquisite flavor gained from weeks of ripening under genial sunshine, which develops the saccharine qualities to the utmost degree, and evolves a product fit for a king's table—unexcelled anywhere.

The long rainless season in California is especially propitious for curing fruits, which are cut and spread on great trays, covering acres in extent. The moisture evaporates quickly, leaving the sugar and flavor unimpaired, the dried product being second only to the ripe fruit. In Solano County thousands of tons of fruit are prepared every year in this manner, and shipped in car load lots to all parts of the United States, while great quantities are exported on the ocean liners radiating from San Francisco.

GRAIN.

While thousands of acres are devoted to fruit raising, Solano County has a vastly greater area given over to cereals. In the north-eastern and central section of the county are great ranches devoted to grain growing. The rich adobe land of the Montezuma Hills produces the best milling wheat grown in California. Failure of crops is unknown and 50,000 tons of wheat, free from weeds or foul stuff, is the annual offering of this portion of the county. On Ryer Island, and in the northern and eastern sections of the county, large areas are planted to barley, the yield in some instances going as high as



SUGAR BEET FIELD NEAR CORDELIA, SOLANO COUNTY

sixty sacks to the acre, though that is above the average. The total grain output of the county in a favorable year will exceed 150,000 tons. The farmers have the advantage offered by water freights and their product is marketed at a minimum expense.

HAY.

Great quantities of hay are raised annually in the county and shipped from Dixon, Elmira, Suisun, Rio Vista, Benicia and Vallejo. A fair estimate of the amount would be 20,000 to 25,000 tons of high class hay. In Benicia and Vallejo townships the principal product of the farming section is hay.

LIVE STOCK.

The value of the live stock in this county runs to very large figures. The sheep industry brings in a rich return for the 75,000 head owned in the county. Among medium sized flocks, where the owner can give his individual attention to them, the profit for a year is equal to the value of the stock. The spring and fall clips at the present prices, will average over \$2.00 per head, while the yearly increase, in some of the flocks in Northern Solano has amounted to 100 and 125 per cent in numbers. Sheep are kept on all farms and run on cultivated fields after seeding, keeping down the weeds and noxious grasses, and are also put on the stubble after the crops are taken off. On Ryer Island the sheep remain on the grain fields till late in March, keeping the grain down to prevent too rank a growth. The large flocks, from 3,000 to 10,000 in numbers, are kept on the ranges in Elmira, Denverton, and Maine Prairie Townships, though nearly every farmer in the county has from twenty-five to 250 and 500 sheep, which make a goodly increase in his yearly profits. As a rule the sheep are crossed with a thoroughbred strain, getting the best wool and mutton qualities, combined with strength and hardiment.

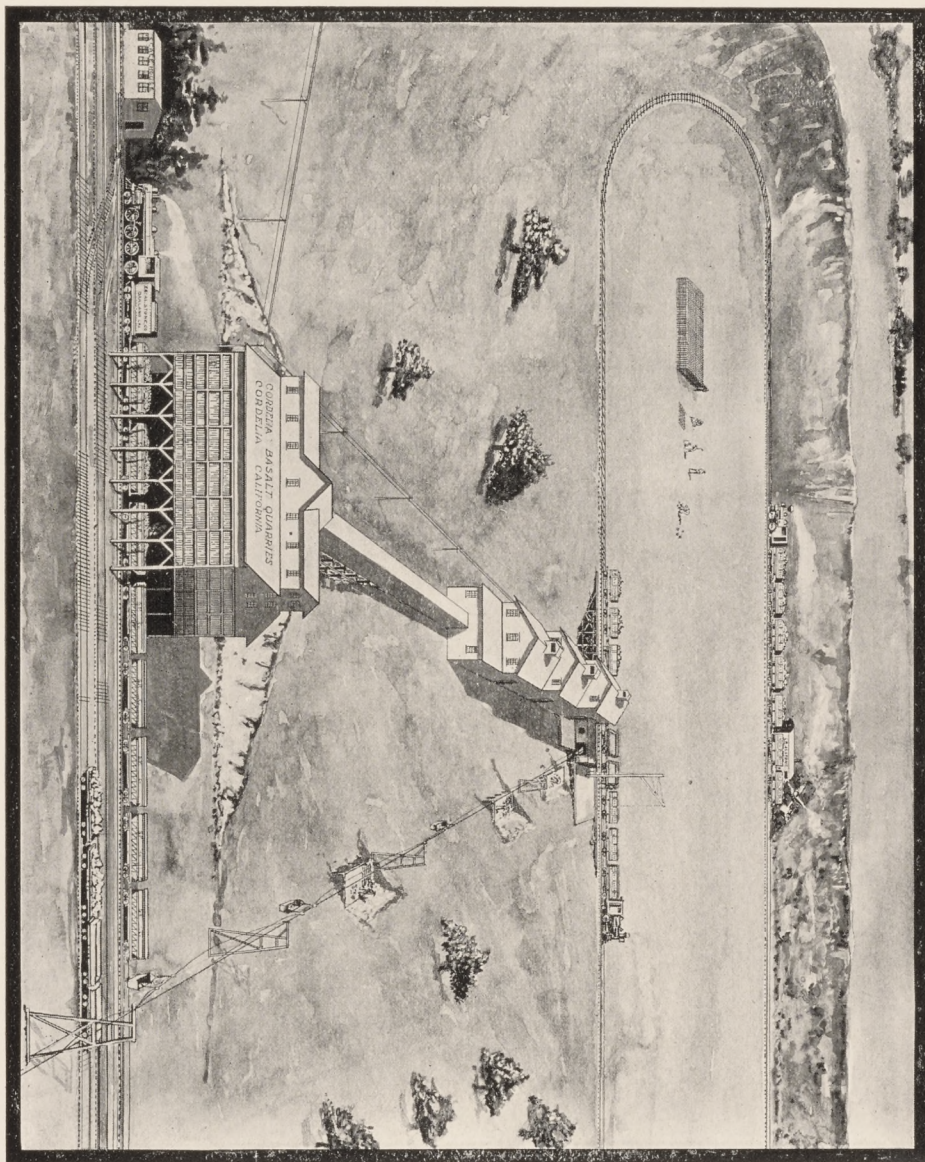
CATTLE.

The cattle industry goes hand in hand with the dairy interest, though there are several ranges devoted to raising beef cattle. The Humboldt Stock Farm, located about two miles from Suisun has about 200 thoroughbred short horns with an imported bull, valued at \$4,000, at the head of the herd. The stock from this farm are all registered thoroughbreds, and are sold for breeding. Many of them have been bought in the county and the quality of the stock is being constantly improved. It is estimated that 100 car loads, or 2600 head, of beef cattle will be shipped from Suisun alone this year.

DAIRYING.

The dairying interests of the county are going ahead by leaps

and bounds. There are at least 15,000 head of dairy cattle in the county, with creameries at Benicia and Dixon, two in Vallejo and one in Rio Vista beside a number of large dairies. Quantities of milk and cream are also shipped to Oakland, Alameda and San Francisco. Grizzly and Joyce Islands, reclaimed lands adjoining Suisun Bay, have hundreds of dairy cows, the moisture underlying the soil keep-



ing feed green almost the entire year. In the upland section, the acreage in alfalfa is constantly increasing. Irrigation from wells is both easy and cheap, and five and six crops are cut each year, aggregating ten to twelve tons to the acre if cut for hay, or furnishing the equivalent of green feed. The product of Solano County creameries receives the highest price in San Francisco, the entire output of the Dixon creamery being handled by one retail establishment.

HORSES.

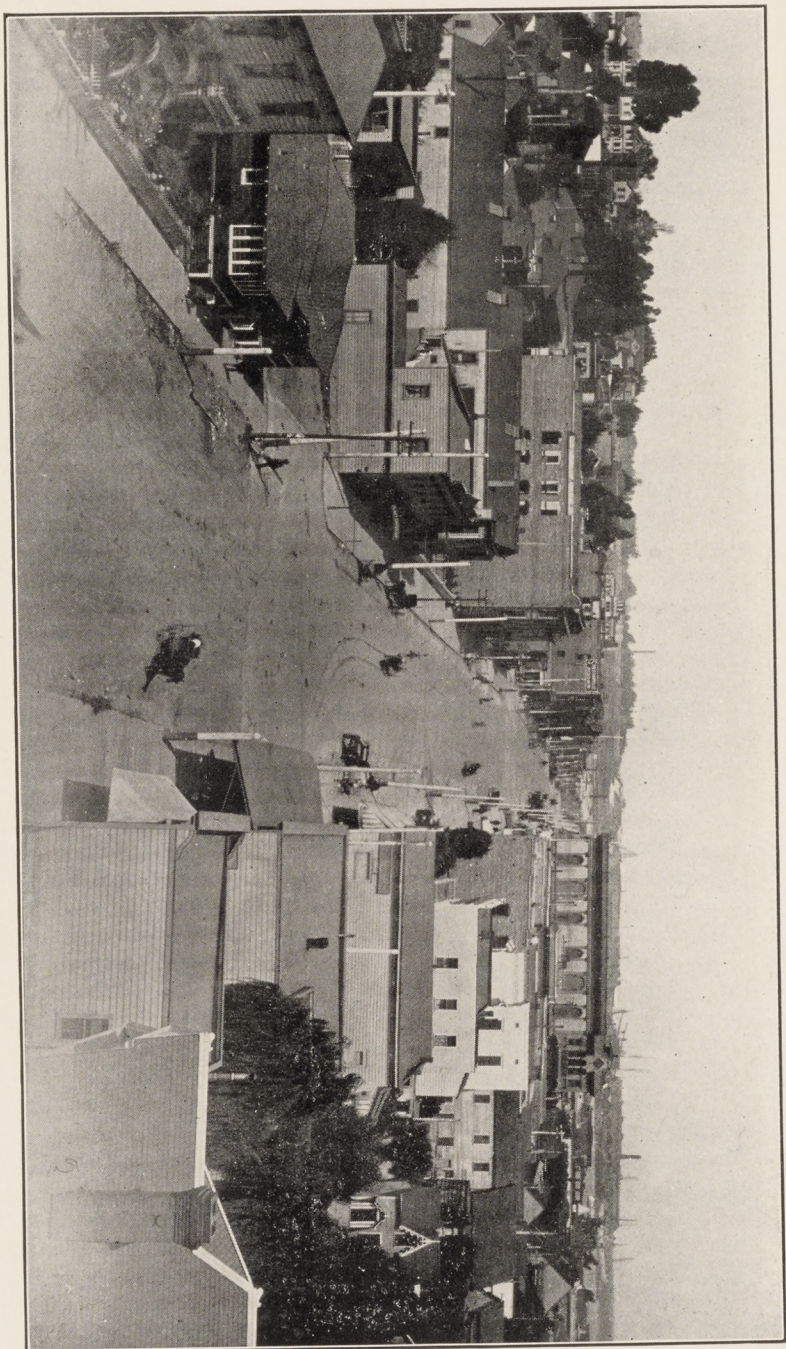
Horses, thoroughbred and standard bred, have been raised in Solano County since Theo Winters established his famous stud on Putah Creek. To-day there are several noted breeding farms here. The Suisun stock farm of five thousand acres in the Potrero Hills has the premier stallion Demonio, 2:11 1-4, a full brother to Diablo. Vallejo has Gaff Topsail a son of Diablo and Baywood 2:09 1-4 a son of Woodnut, while the Hoy breeding and training farm in Solano County opposite Winters has Bayswater Wilkes at the head of the stud. Several fine standard bred stallions are owned at Dixon. There are race tracks at Vallejo and Dixon, a number of horses being in training at both places.

Draft horses are a factor of Solano County farms. In the present year imported Percheron stallions have been bought in Vallejo, Suisun, Dixon and Rio Vista, while an imported Belgian Draft stallion is owned in Suisun Valley and a splendid German coach stallion has been imported by Vacaville owners.

Each of these horses is valued at \$3,000 and upward, and with the infusion of new blood into the county, Solano may easily hold its rank as one of the foremost horse breeding sections of the State.

POULTRY.

Strange as it may seem, Solano County has few places devoted to poultry raising, a condition which will last but a short time. A poultry ranch of eight acres near Fairfield with an expenditure of less than \$2,000 for facilities gives a product of \$1200 to \$1500 a year. Similar results are obtained at places newly started near Dixon and Benicia, showing that this business may reach immense proportions. In the central portion of the county, with ample facilities for reaching a market is a stretch of 10,000 acres admirably adapted for poultry. The soil is dry with an abundance of gravel. Water is easily reached. This section is an ideal poultry raising locality. The land is cheap, and if settled by small poultry farmers, will produce twenty-fold what it does now as a grazing land. If fully settled this section will maintain millions of fowls, and produce an income that will run into the millions. At this time hundreds of cases of eggs and coops of poultry are shipped each year to market from the several stations along the line of railroad.



BUSINESS STREET, VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY, LOOKING WEST

HOGS.

The presence of so many dairies in the county and much diversified farming favors the raising of hogs as by-product on the farms. The yearly aggregate shipped to market will reach \$100,000.

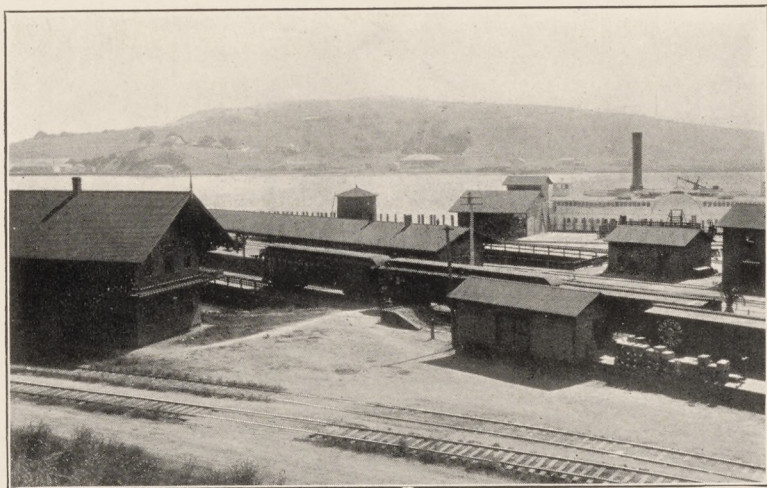
SCHOOLS.

The educational facilities of Solano County are a source of righteous pride to her people. The allowance of funds for public schools in the tax levy is liberal, while in addition special taxes are levied for high school and in several instances for the better maintenance of the elementary schools. There are fifty-six schools in the county, with sixty-four buildings, and 142 teachers employed. The average cost of each elementary school pupil is \$25.80 per year. The average cost of high school pupils is \$70.70 per year. Teachers' salaries average \$72.50 per month. The value of school property in the county is a quarter of a million dollars. There are high schools at Vallejo, Benicia, Fairfield, Dixon and Vacaville, while the county has a joint interest in the high school at Winters, Yolo County. The high school libraries in the county contain 3,330 volumes and the libraries of the other public schools 28,737 volumes. Beside the public schools there are three splendid private institutions of learning. St. Catherines Academy in Benicia, and St. Gertrudes Academy in Rio Vista are boarding and day schools, and St. Vincent's school in Vallejo is a day school. The three institutions afford educational facilities for hundreds of children.

TRANSPORTATION.

Solano County, washed for miles along its eastern and southern shores by the Sacramento River and Suisun Bay, with two navigable sloughs penetrating for miles into its interior and with its two largest centers of population on Carquinez Straits and the Mare Island Straits, is most happily situated as regards transportation facilities. Numerous landings and warehouses are accessible to shippers, while water freights on all commodities are very low. The Southern Pacific Railroad with its connections runs a main line directly through the county with branches from Suisun to Napa Junction connecting with lines from Vallejo to Calistoga and Santa Rosa, while at Elmira another branch runs to Vacaville and on through Yolo County. Suisun is on the main line of the Southern Pacific Road and Vacaville is but four miles from it, so no delay is encountered in routing fresh fruit shipments to eastern points, time being an important element in this important industry.

An electric line has just been put in operation between Vallejo and Napa making fast time with superb passenger accomodations. At Vallejo connection is made with the steamers of the Monticello



Southern Pacific Company's Terminal, South Vallejo, Solano County

Steamship Company, making six round trips daily to San Francisco. These are the most handsome and fastest bay steamers plying out of San Francisco, and do a very large business. The headquarters of the company which operates these steamers is at Vallejo, where it owns extensive wharfage facilities. The shipping business of Vallejo is divided, the Piper, Aden, Goodall Co., of San Francisco, operating five steamers and a fleet of schooners and barges running a regular freight line to Vallejo. The Southern Pacific Company also runs a daily freight steamer to Vallejo and Benicia. All lines of river steamers plying from San Francisco to Stockton and Sacramento, touch at Benicia, and the Sacramento River lines at Collinsville and Rio Vista, and other landings when business warrants it. The railroad runs ferry steamers to connect its train service between Vallejo and Vallejo Junction and between Benicia and Port Costa. The Solano, on the latter run is the largest ferry boat in the world, transporting three trains at trip. The steamer Newtown, owned at Rio Vista, does an extensive business in bay and river freighting, as does the Steamer Suisun City running between Suisun and San Francisco, and owned in the former place.

The traveling facilities between points in Solano county will be greatly enhanced by the building of the electric lines, for which franchises have been granted. The lines now running from Napa to Vallejo will shortly be extended to Benicia. Franchises are held by the founders of that road for lines from Benicia to Suisun via Cordelia and Suisun Valley, from Suisun to Rio Vista, and from Suisun to Vacaville and Dixon, and on to Woodland in Yolo county. All preliminary work has been done on these lines, which will reach

every point of importance in this magnificent section.

A competing steam line through Solano County is a certainty in the near future. Thousands of dollars have been paid for rights of way for a road to tap the Vacaville fruit belt and run south, which must be built by January 1st, 1907, while projects for bridging Carquinez Straits and Suisun Bay are now under consideration by the Federal authorities. When these projects are completed, Solano County will have competition in transportation, both in rates and in service.

RECLAMATION.

The original lines of Solano County embrace over 100,000 acres of swamp and marsh land, most of which has not been wholly reclaimed. Ryer Island containing 12,000 acres, has been completely leveed and is a veritable garden spot. Grizzly and Joyce Islands with a similar area, have tide levees, and the Egbert tract of 10,000 acres above Rio Vista, has been leveed, but being in the direct line of overflow from the great Yolo Basin and its outlet, Cache Slough, has been flooded several years in succession. The owners of this valuable land are awaiting the inauguration of a permanent plan for rectifying the channel of the Sacramento River, when they will rebuild their levee and the 10,000 acres of rich land will again yield as highly profitable crops as Ryer Island. Some very rich land in the immediate neighborhood of Suisun is now being reclaimed, and Cross Island, containing 7,500 acres of land lying between San Pablo Bay and Napa Creek, is growing very heavy barley crops. On the shore line north of Vallejo a tract of 900 acres has been reclaimed and will be devoted to asparagus culture and dairying. Operations have been started on the adjoining tract extending into Napa county.

There is a great expanse of marsh land, extending around Suisun Bay from Benicia to Collinsville, with sloughs to Suisun, Denverton and Maine Prairie, upon which the advocates of reclamation have set covetous eyes. This land, now worth \$15 and \$20 an acre, will be worth \$100 when the great dredgers have traversed its borders leaving substantial levees behind. The broad sloughs will be deepened and otherwise improved, the products of the land being shipped by water to market. This project offers a splendid opportunity for investment with a certainty of a handsome income from the outlay.

MINING.

The only successful mining in Solano County has been for quicksilver, which was first discovered by John Neate in 1852. Sixteen years later he opened the Brownlie mine east of Vallejo, from which \$30,000 worth of quicksilver was taken at a depth not exceeding forty feet. Later he located the St. John mine, which was worked energetically from 1873 to 1880, producing \$504,000 in quicksilver. Much of the ore averaged eight and ten per cent in quicksilver, and

the yield never went below 2 7-8 per cent of the cinnabar reduced. The mine was closed from 1880 to 1899, when it was taken over by a new corporation and re-opened throughout at an expense of \$100,000. The tunnel 1300 feet in length was retimbered, and the shaft opened to a depth of 682 feet, and crosscut beneath a great body of



Dixon, Solano County, Churches and Public School Building

ore which is now being worked. New and modern reduction works using crude oil as fuel have been established and the development of the rich property, which extends over 713 acres of land, is going right ahead. A score of men are employed and quicksilver is being shipped regularly. There is a vast ore body in this mine which has not been touched.

Another mine is being developed on the Hastings Tract a few miles southeast of the St. John mine and in the same hill as the original Brownlie mine. A tunnel has been run into the hill for a distance of 900 feet under cutting a vein of cinnabar thirty feet wide. A reduction plant is being erected by the owners of the mine.

EMPLOYMENT.

The manufacturing industries in the county employ thousands of men. The government establishments at Mare Island and Benicia disburse \$2,000,000 annually in the county for wages and supplies. The cement plant near Suisun, the rock crusher plant at Cordelia, the iron works and tanneries at Benicia, the flour mills and tannery at Vallejo and the tule factory at Rio Vista, afford constant employment, while the canneries and the fruit packing and cutting establishments give work to thousands during the season. Building and other improvement work are constantly under way, and the industrious artisan or workingman is seldom idle in this favored land. The income of the county from all sources is so great that everyone has the opportunity to earn a good living, while mercantile establishments of all kinds do a thriving business. The schools, churches and social opportunities afford abundant means of mental improvement and recreation and tend to make contented prosperous communities in every respect.

PLEASURE RESORTS.

The hills and valleys of the western section, the broad sweep of

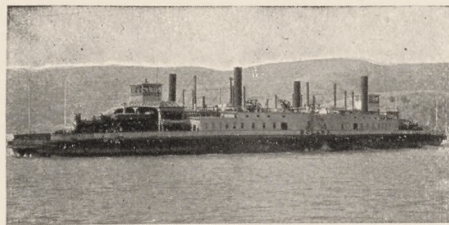


AT WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, SOLANO COUNTY



ORCHARD LAND NEAR SUISUN, SOLANO COUNTY

the river on the east, and the great expanse of bay shore, afford ample opportunity for health and pleasure seekers. One of the most accessible health resorts in the State is the Vallejo White Sulphur Springs, a beautiful summer resort with waters of great medicinal value and excellent accommodations for the health and pleasure of guests. This place is a great favorite resort for residents of Vallejo and Benicia. Glen Cove, another picnic and health resort, is situated on Carquinez Straits, with a steamer landing to accommodate excursions from all bay and river points. In Green Valley, the City of Vallejo owns, in connection with its water system, a thousand acres of natural picnic park, which attracts thousands of pleasure seekers annually from the different parts of the county. Tolenas Springs, north of Fairfield, has a rich mineral spring amid rugged, beautiful surroundings. When accommodations are provided this will make an ideal pleasure resort. It is the site of the famous Tolenas marble quarry, whose beautiful product is highly prized wherever



LARGEST FERRY IN THE WORLD, BENICIA, SOLANO COUNTY

known. Putah Creek has many beautiful spots to attract those who seek a change from work or business. The Sacramento River on its lower reaches has many picturesque scenes. All these places are easy of access and are additional attractions in this land of plenty.

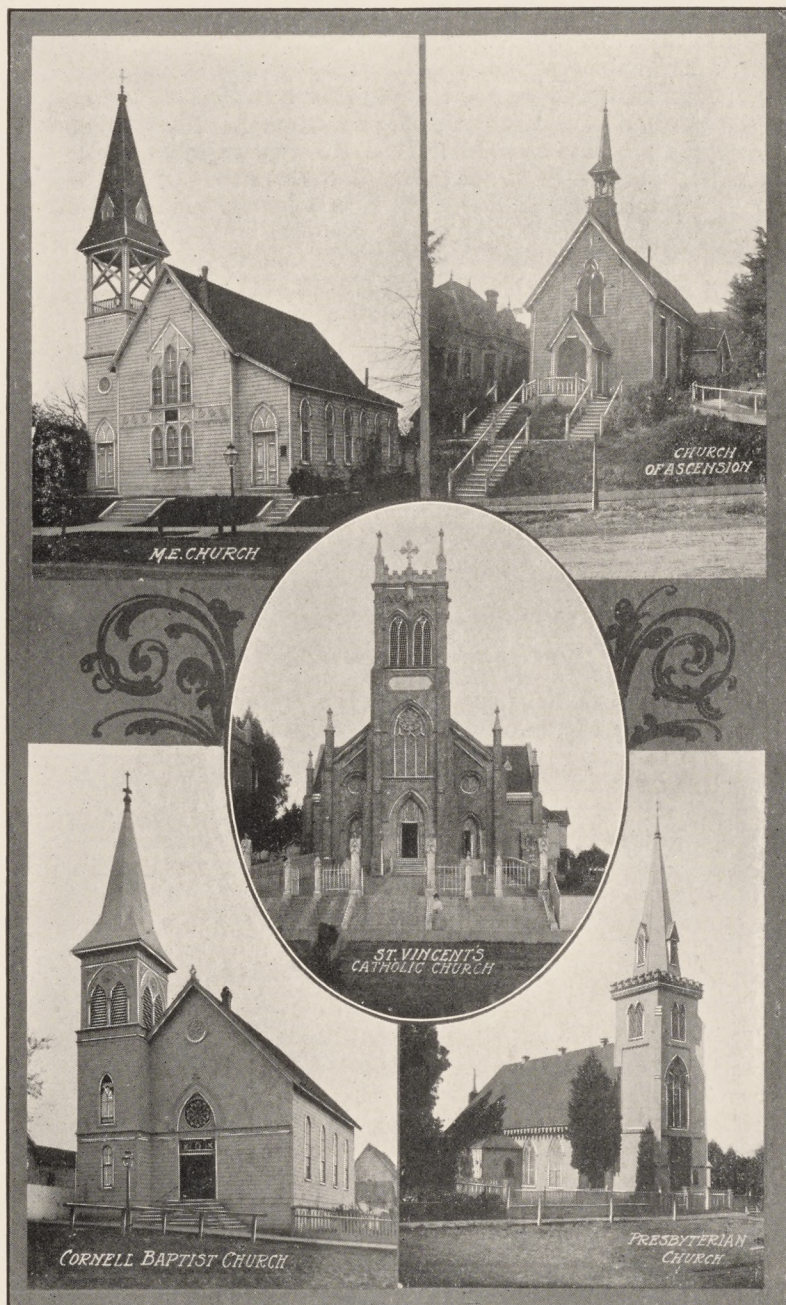
VALLEJO TOWNSHIP.

Lying in the extreme southwestern corner of the county is Vallejo Township, including the City of the same name, with approximately one third of the population of the entire county. This township is the southern portion of the great Suscol grant, originally held by General M. G. Vallejo, by whom the site of the city was selected and for whom it was named. The township is a narrow strip extending along Napa Creek and Mare Island Straits to the junction of the latter with Carquinez Straits, and for several miles along that waterway. Its soil is mainly a rich adobe, which has yielded great grain crops for half a century. Of recent years much of the land has been devoted to dairying and the auxiliary cultivation of hay. Little grain is now raised here. There are about twenty dairies in the township, supplying two creameries in Vallejo with material for making 1,000 pounds of butter daily, while very large quantities of milk and cream are shipped to San Francisco and Oakland. From 2,000 to 3,000 milch cows are owned in the environs of Vallejo and their produce is shipped in various forms from that point.

The reclamation of the tule lands along Napa Creek above Vallejo, is but a question of a short time. One tract of 900 acres has just been dyked and work is to be inaugurated on another at once. There is no flood water to speak of, the tides being the only element to consider. Cross Island of 7,500 acres in Vallejo Township and Napa County has been successfully reclaimed and produces immense crops of barley and hay. Island No. 1 lying between Cross and Mare Islands is also reclaimed. These tule lands produce abundantly and will be largely planted to asparagus, a most prolific and profitable product.

Vallejo Township includes the St. John quicksilver mine, which has produced over half a million in quicksilver and which has recently been re-opened and, with a large area of unexploited cinnabar ledges, promises to yield untold wealth.

An institution well worthy of consideration is the Good Templars' Home for Orphans, located on a commanding site overlooking the City of Vallejo and the waters beyond. Here 250 little ones, whose being "homeless orphans" is the only passport demanded at its portals, are cared for, and reared on lines of truth and righteousness. They are provided for till fourteen years of age. The home was established and maintained by the Independent Order of Good Templars, but was placed on a permanent financial basis through the bequest of the late E. I. Upham, of Collinsville, being the noble monument far surpassing any structure of stone or bronze. The insti-



PLACES OF WORSHIP, VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY

tution is admirably conducted, and is aided by residents of all sections of Solano and neighboring counties.

In this township a few miles from the city are the Vallejo White Sulphur Springs, a most popular health pleasure resort. It has an excellent hotel, cottages, clubhouse, pavilion, lake, and all facilities for pleasure and health seekers, and enjoys a large patronage during the season from May to November. It has telephone service and a regular stage connection with all boats and trains at Vallejo.

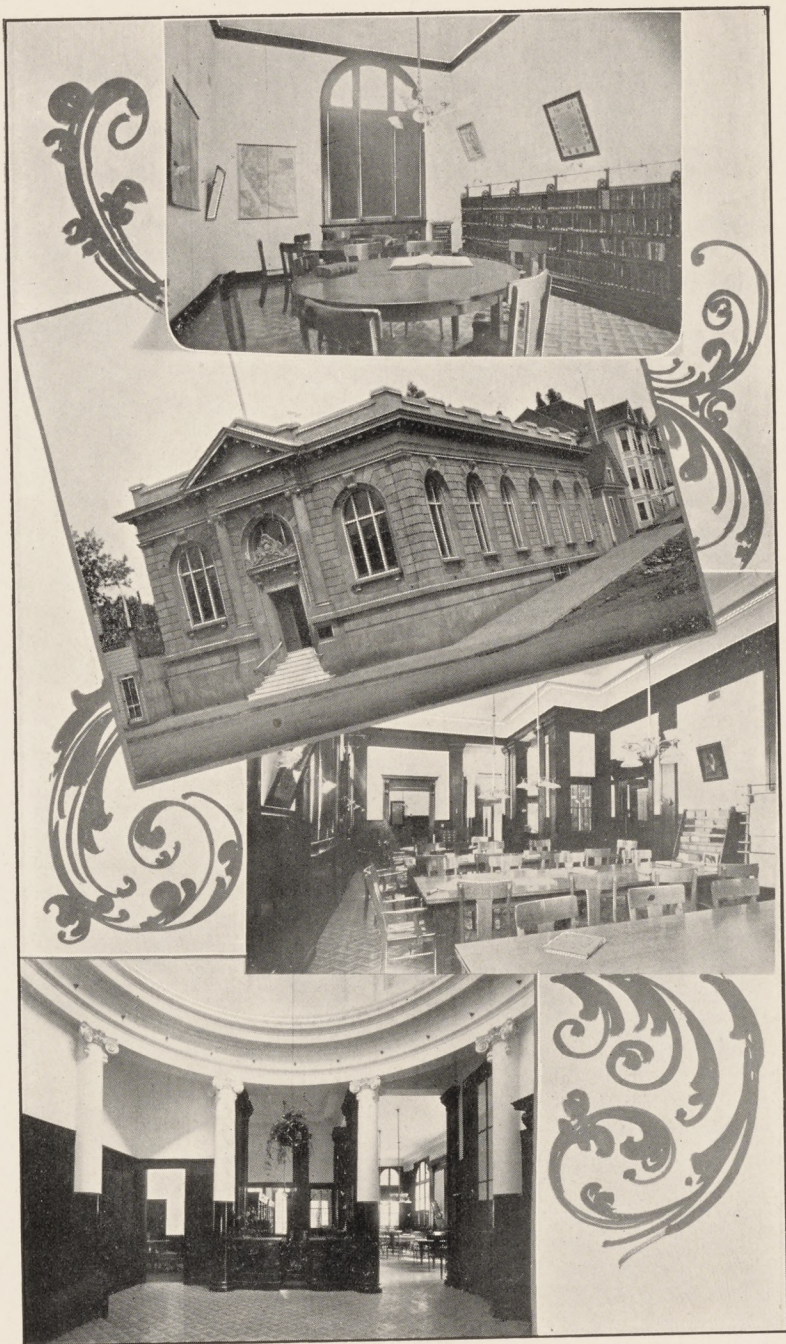
CITY OF VALLEJO.

The City of Vallejo is Solano's metropolis. Its population is about 12,000. The city has a charter framed by its citizens. The water system, owned by the municipality, is worth \$1,000,000 and furnishes a bountiful supply of pure, fresh water, the storage reservoir being in the mountains fourteen miles distant. There are over twenty miles of pipe in the distributing systems. The rates to consumers are about one-half those paid elsewhere, yet the revenue from this source pays all expenses, the sinking and interest fund demands and leaves a surplus which grows larger as the payments on maturing bonds are made. One-half the original bonds have been paid off, and two new issues for improvements have been made. The city property, including six fire department houses and apparatus, City Hall, Public Library building, public wharf, and five school buildings, is worth \$125,000 beside the water system. The entire business portion of the city has been paved with bitumen at a cost of \$100,000 to property owners. There is a regular police force and letter carrier service. The public library, containing 6,000 volumes of which forty percent are works of fiction and the balance reference and statistical works of all kinds, is housed in a new stone building erected by Andrew Carnegie at an expense of \$20,000, and equipped at a further expense of \$3,500 to the city. Files of all standard magazines and all the leading California newspapers are kept in the reading rooms.

SCHOOLS.

The public schools include a high school and elementary grades in five buildings, while an additional school is maintained at the Orphans' home. The corps of teachers number thirty-five and the annual expenses approximate \$35,000. A feature of the system is a night school, where fifty young men and women, who work during the day for a livelihood, are enabled to obtain an education. The day pupils number 1400 of all grades. The high school is fully accredited by both great universities and the standard of the schools throughout is as high as any in the State.

Beside the public school a day school is maintained at St. Vincent's Convent, where 450 boys and girls are taught by a staff of



Carnegie Public Library, Vallejo, Solano County

eleven Sisters, with one lay assistant. The course of study takes twelve years and is identical with the public school course, including the high school, with special instructions given in stenography, music and drawing.

The municipal assessment roll of Vallejo amounts to \$3,500,000. The tax rate is below \$1 on the \$100, and will be reduced as the surplus from water revenues increase. The city owns a wharf, insuring competition in shipping rates, beside adding to its revenue. Streets are completely lighted by a system of ninety-five arc lights. Commercial lighting is provided by electric and gas corporations, rates being very reasonable for all domestic purposes.

Vallejo is one of the healthiest cities in California. An elaborate sewer system is maintained, while cool, fresh breezes from the bay are conducive to both health and comfort throughout the year. The death rate is among the lowest of any city reported in the United States statistics, and in some years has been the lowest of all. Residence lots cost from \$100 to \$3,000 and business property from \$20 to \$400 per front foot. Rents for dwellings range from \$8 to \$50 per month, and store rents from \$10 to \$100 per month. Building operations are active and there is an excellent opportunity for investments. The determination of the Government to make Mare Island Navy Yard a shipbuilding as well as a repairing plant assures permanent employment to a much larger force of men than at present and bids fair to more than double the population of Vallejo in a decade.

The transportation facilities of Vallejo are excellent. It is on the line of the Napa Valley and Santa Rosa branches of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, has an electric railroad to Napa, which will be extended to Benicia and also to Lake County, and has two lines of steamers to San Francisco, one making six round trips daily, in connection with the electric road, beside a service of five round trips daily by rail. On an hour and thirty minute schedule the Monticello Steamship Co.'s steamers make six round trips in connection with the electric road and travelers are assured of every ease and comfort with a choice of routes.

Vallejo has three daily newspapers and one weekly. The churches include the Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations with attractive edifices, and a congregation of the Christian denomination which holds services in a hall. One theatre runs continuously and one at frequent intervals. A splendid institution is the Naval Branch of the Y. M. C. A., a clubhouse for enlisted men, founded by Admiral and Mrs. B. H. McCalla, and furnished with every facility for the comfort and pleasure of "Jack ashore." The building and equipment are worth \$100,000 and is fully occupied at all times. The Vallejo Yachting and Rowing Club has a handsome clubhouse on the water front, where visiting yachtsmen are royally entertained. Two banks do a very large business.

The fraternal organizations of Vallejo form a roster of the great

beneficial societies. The Odd Fellows own two halls and have five branches including the Patriarchs Militant and Rebekah Degrees. The Masonic fraternity owns its hall and has all five lodges from the Commandery down, there being two Blue lodges and chapter of the Eastern Star. The Redmen own their hall, there being a prosperous



Green Valley Water Falls, Owned by the City of Vallejo, Solano County
McMILLAN PHOTO Source of Vallejo's Great Water Supply.

tribe and two councils of the Pocahontas Degree. The Eagles maintain their headquarters under lease and the Elks have a handsome club home. Forestry has three branches, each with a companion degree. The Knights of Pythias, Uniform Rank and Rathbone Sisters are three flourishing bodies. The Native Sons and Native Daughters, Young Mens' and Young Ladies' Institutes, Knights of Columbus, Druids, Workmen and Degree of Honor, Maccabees and Lady Maccabees, Woodmen and Women of Woodcraft and other fraternities, the Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., Naval Veterans, United Spanish-American War Veterans and affiliated societies of those who have served the flag are numbered among the organizations, all of which do much to build up the social life of the community.

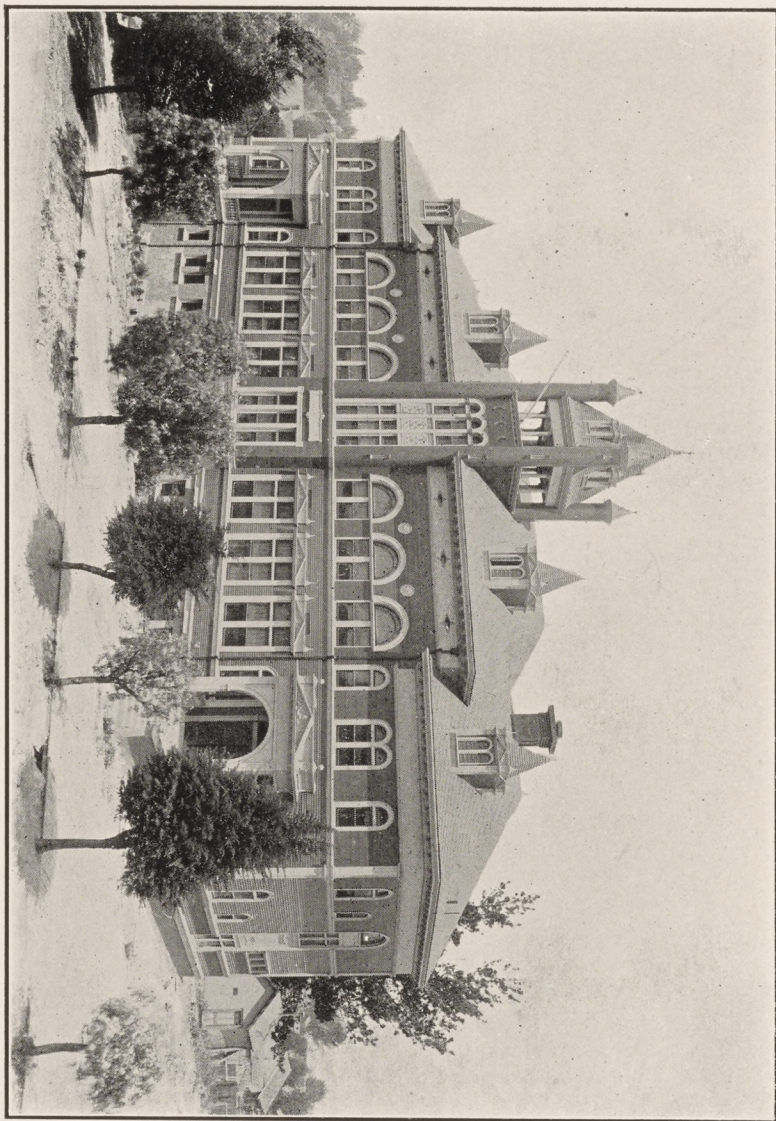
Mare Island is the principal factor of employment, yet Vallejo has other notable industries. The Starr Mill with a capacity of 2500 barrels of flour and 1,000 sacks of crushed barley daily, does an immense business, exporting flour to Europe, Mexico, Central and South America, Hawaii, the Phillipines, China and Japan. Its local field goes throughout California and into Nevada and Utah. The wheat is bought in all sections of California and the Pacific Coast, and handled on both practical and scientific lines, so the flour produced is of the most accurate standard known. Every lot of wheat milled is first tested from grain to bread, and the standards required in each of the varied markets of the mill are met. All grain is handled by power in and out of the mill, which has its own electric plant, power being generated on the premises. Crude oil is used for fuel, and the cost is as cheap as in any steam plant in California. A great quantity of crude oil is also sold for fuel and road purposes, ample facilities for handling it having been installed. The high value of the product of this mill is shown by the large number of brands made to order for patrons throughout the world. Quantities of flour are sold annually to the United States Army and Navy, meeting the most severe tests. A special moisture and air proof package originated in this mill has caused a heavy demand for its product for shipment. About fifty men are given steady employment the year round.

The Engelbr Wiese Packing Establishment exports salmon to Germany, where it is smoked. The fish are gathered by tenders and cleaned, pickled and shipped in cooperage in cold storage. From twenty-five cars upward are shipped each year, the value being \$140,000. An ice plant in connection with the establishment meets the local demand for this commodity.

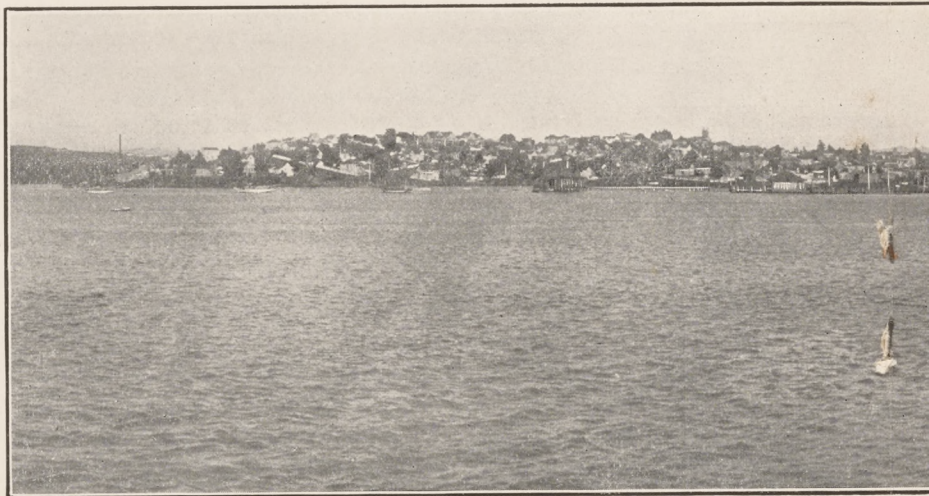
The tannery operated by the Vallejo-Santa Rosa Tanning Company has an output of 50,000 sides a year, beside finishing the output of auxiliary tanneries. Its equipment is unexcelled in the State, and its product brings the highest price. Special devices to facilitate work and improve the quality of the output are in use. The tannery employs from forty to fifty men.

The Vallejo Cement Block Company, manufactures artificial building stone, and gives employment to a dozen men. It is a new industry and promises well.

Another small industry that advertises Solano all over the world is W. F. Henry's manufacture of man 'o war views. A business that has grown from 1,200 orders in 1900 to 17,000 in 1904, giving constant employment to several hands.



ONE OF FIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS, VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY



CITY OF VALLEJO LOOKING FROM



NORTHERN ADDITION TO VALLEJO, WHICH LAND WAS



LOOKING FROM MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD



LAND WAS A WHEAT FIELD FIVE YEARS AGO

The Aden Company has a planing mill and lumber yard, employing from sixty to one hundred men and enjoying a large patronage in Solano, Napa, Lake and Sonoma Counties. The headquarters of the Piper, Aden, Goodall Co. steamers are at the shipyard of this company.

Vallejo has a steam laundry employing sixty hands, three breweries with a combined output of 10,000 barrels annually, four bottling works that put up 50,000 cases of lager beer and two carbonated

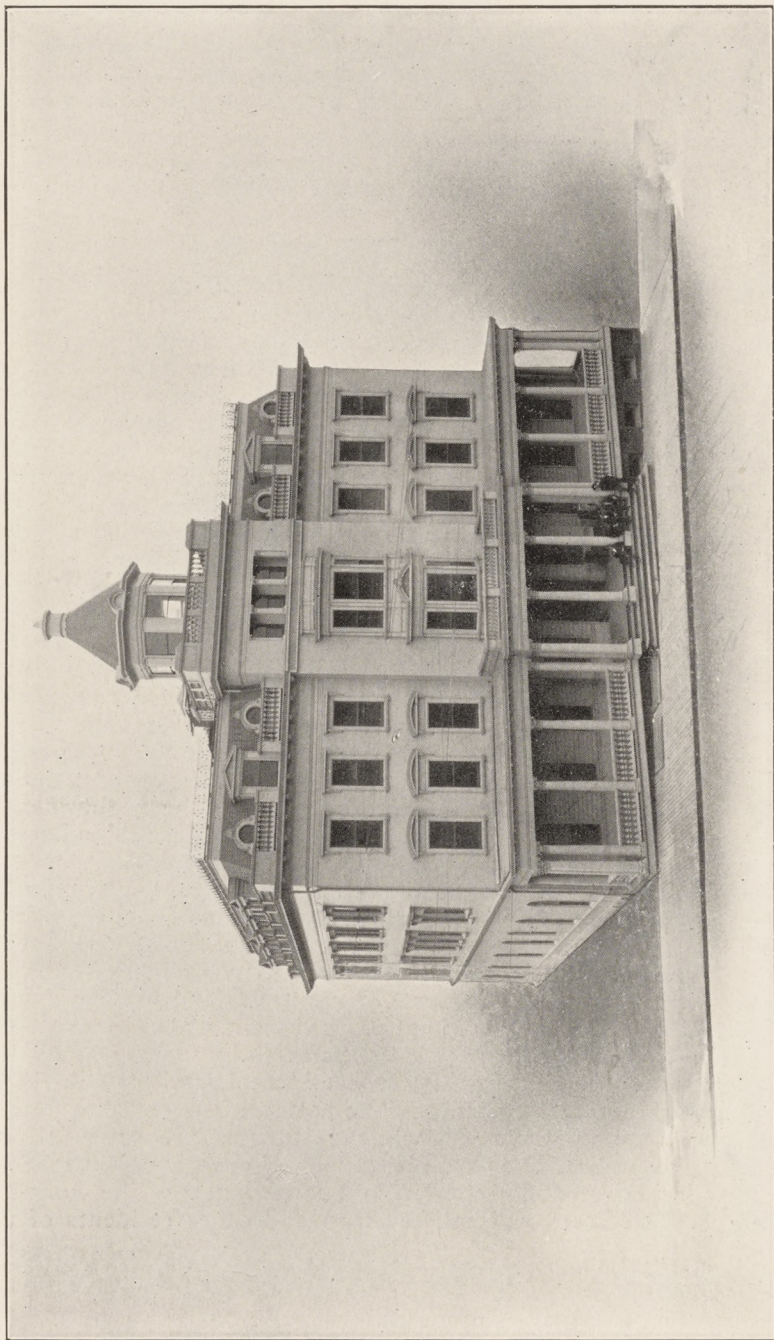


RIOT OF APRIL, ROSES IN BLOOM, VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY

water factories producing 65,000 dozen yearly. A large number of men are employed in these establishments. Other industries include a large machine shop and a stone yard with appreciable outputs. A considerable business is done in dressed meats, three establishments sending carcasses worth approximately \$150,000 a year to San Francisco.

MARE ISLAND NAVY YARD.

Mare Island Navy Yard, drawing its labor supply from Vallejo, is the largest government institution west of the Mississippi River. Its equipment has cost over \$12,000,000, including a splendid granite dock, which has been in use twenty years with no expense for repairs. A larger dock is now being constructed. Scores of brick and steel buildings are occupied by the 2,000 workmen employed. The Ordnance department and magazines are the supply headquarters for the United States Pacific and Asiatic fleets, as are also the marine barracks and medical departments. Splendid facilities for the repair of all classes of vessels are available, and a modern building slip and complete equipments are about to be installed for building the collier "Ontario" recently ordered by Congress. Hundreds of ships have been repaired for the Navy, Coast Survey, Light House, Revenue and Army Transport services and for foreign governments, while the vessels built include the Mohican, Monadnock, and Intrepid, the tugs Monterey, Unadilla, Pawtucket and Sotoyomo, and numerous smaller crafts. Nearly all the war vessels built at the Union Iron Works received their boats and equipments from Mare Island. Three of the vessels which won the great battle of Manila Bay under Admiral Dewey—the Boston, Baltimore and Petrel—had been thoroughly overhauled and prepared for duty by mechanics at Mare Island, while every shot fired from the main batteries of the fleet on that memorable occasion was prepared at the Mare Island magazines. This establishes the claim that the standard of workmanship on the Pacific Coast is higher than in any other industrial establishment on the Pacific Coast. The mild climate enables the men to work in the open air the year round, this fact alone enabling Mare Island to successfully compete with Eastern yards where progress is retarded by excessive heat in summer and cold in winter, sufficiently to counteract the higher wages paid here. In this respect Mare Island may justly be termed a workingman's paradise. The pay roll is over \$5,000 a day, exceeding \$1,500,000 annually, while vast sums are expended for material and supplies. The yard plant includes electric power stations and every arrangement for comfort and convenience of the workmen as well as the officers and enlisted men and other residents of the island.



Naval Y. M. C. A. House—Built for the Enlisted Men of the U. S. Navy, Vallejo, Solano County.

BENICIA TOWNSHIP.

Adjoining Vallejo township on the east is Benicia Township, a fertile section including two ranges of hills with a beautiful valley between them and extending into the marsh lands of Suisun Bay. It contains over 20,000 acres of farming land, much of which is devoted to hay raising and dairying. The product of over 2,000 cows in this section is handled by a creamery at Benicia, while milk and cream are also shipped to Oakland and San Francisco. In the township is the Hoyt rock quarry from which much road material has been taken. The quicksilver mine on the Hastings ranch bids fair to be marvelously productive.

CITY OF BENICIA.

The City of Benicia is a splendidly located manufacturing center, and its industrial enterprises support a population of 3,000. It is a city of the sixth class. Water and light are provided by private corporations, the water supply being stored in reservoirs of 350,000,000 gallons capacity, adequate for a city of 10,000 people. It is piped four miles. The street and commercial lighting are from the lines of the Bay Counties Power Company which also furnishes power to the great industrial establishments.

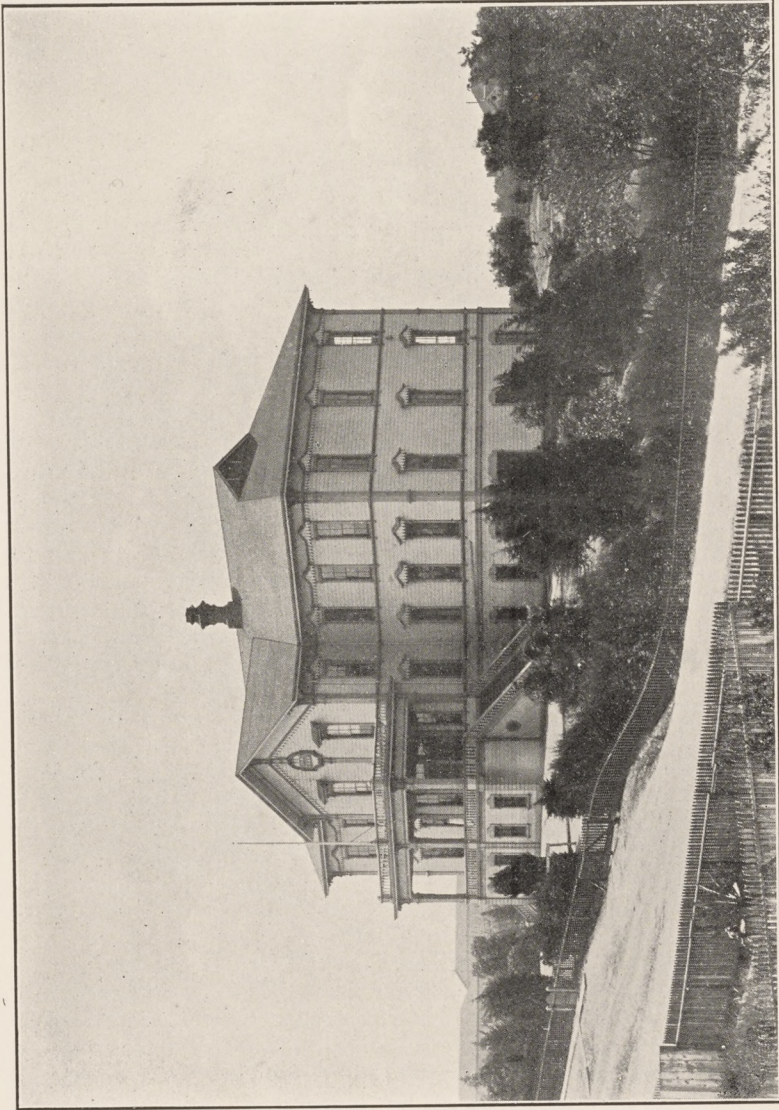
Benicia has an effective fire department of three volunteer companies. It owns a wharf and gives competition in shipping to the people and the outlying country. Wharf bonds to the amount of \$12,000 form the only indebtedness. The city hall, which was formerly the State capitol, is a most interesting building. The town has two weekly newspapers, a bank with a capital of \$30,000, all the stock being owned by residents. The schools are of a high standard, from the high school to the lowest grade. There are fifteen teachers employed in five buildings, all the schools in the township forming one district.

Churches in Benicia include the Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal and Methodist denominations. The fraternal societies are well represented. The Odd Fellows, Masons, and U. P. E. C. (Portugese Benevolent Society) own their own meeting halls. The Odd Fellows have subordinate lodge, encampment and Rebekah degrees. The Masonic bodies include Blue lodge, Royal Arch Chapter, and Eastern Star. Knights of Pythias, A. O. U. W., Y. M. I., I. O. F., Imp. O. R. M., and K. O. T. M., are included in the list of Benicia fraternities.

The oldest private educational institution in the county is St. Catherine's convent founded in Benicia in 1852. It is conducted by the Dominican Sisters, seven of whom teach the 120 day pupils and thirty boarding pupils. The course is similar to that in the public schools, including the high schools, taking twelve years to complete.

INDUSTRIES.

The industries of Benicia are its greatest feature. It has miles of deep water frontage and several lines of steamers carry its product. The Benicia tannery is the largest on the Coast while the McKay and Shaw tanneries do a very large business. Their output is sold throughout the east and immense quantities are shipped to the



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AND PLAY GROUNDS, BENICIA, SOLANO COUNTY

Orient. The three tanneries employ from 200 to 300 men and have a yearly output valued at over \$1,750,000. The wages dispersed by these institutions amount to over \$200,000 a year. Sole, harness and skirting leather are produced, nearly 300,000 sides per year being shipped from this point.

The Carquinez Packing Co., with a plant valued at \$100,000 puts up yearly 40,000 cases of fruit valued at \$150,000; 6,000 cases of salmon, worth \$25,000; and 800 barrels of salmon worth \$75,000. Their pack is almost entirely Solano County fruit and fish caught in the county waters. Their pay roll amounts to \$50,000 per year, from fifty to 300 persons being employed.

The Western Creameries Co., is another very large institution. It has a splendid machinery plant with a capacity of 5,000 pounds of butter a day. From 1,500 to 2,000 gallons of cream are handled each day, being gathered from a large territory. The same institution has a condensed milk department, putting up from fifty to 125 cases daily. The creameries employ from forty to fifty hands. The product of the place is worth a quarter of a million yearly, a figure which is constantly increasing.

The Benicia Iron Works, covering an area of twenty-five acres, employing 200 men, with the highest class of modern machinery, has the most extensive output of any institution in the county, the shipments average 1000 tons per day. The works manufacture all descriptions of agricultural machinery and do all kinds of iron work. The most modern bolt plant in the State is located here, turning out 35,000 bolts per day. The power is derived from the Bay Counties Power Company. Shipments are made from the company's wharf, which was built for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company when Benicia was its main terminus. The products of the works are shipped to Mexico, South and Central America and all transpacific ports, while the farm machinery is sold in all parts of the world. The pay roll runs from \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year and the value of the output runs into millions.

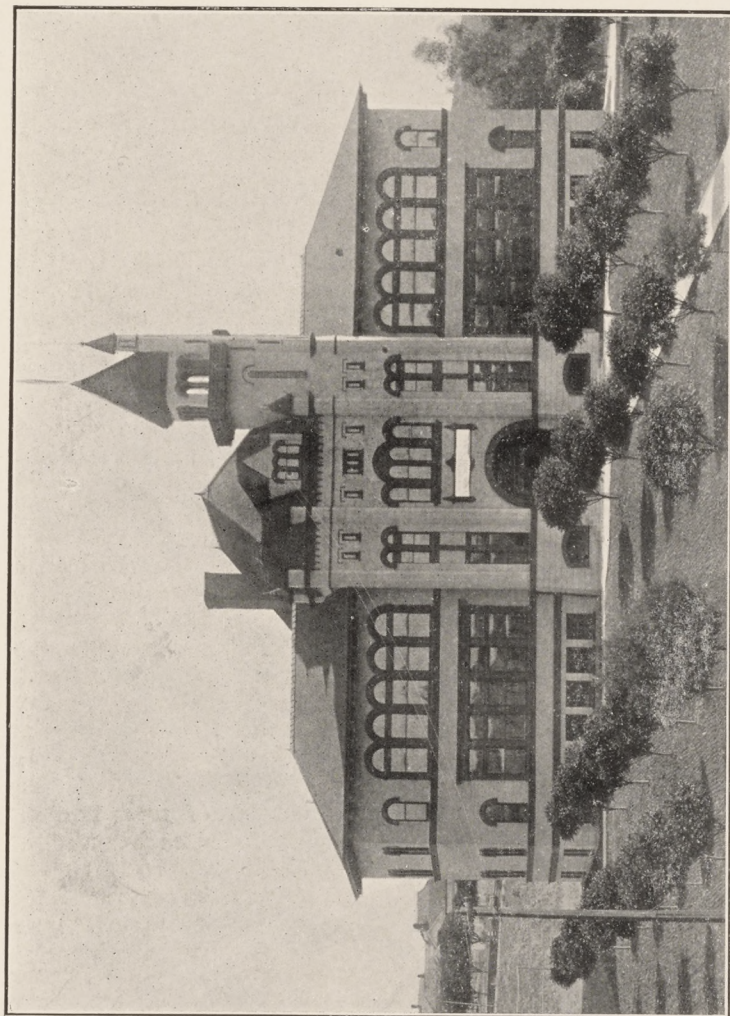
A lime and plaster factory is being erected in Benicia and will shortly be in operation, and the energetic people have inaugurated a ferry service to Bulls Head point in Contra Costa County, to enable the workmen of the large smelter there to live in Benicia and enjoy comfortable homes.

A brewery plant with an annual capacity of 2,000 barrels and a bottling annex with an output of 10,000 dozen carbonated waters is one of Benicia's minor industries.

The shipbuilding industry has been an important factor in Benicia's prosperity. The Turner shipyard has constructed 344 vessels and does a great quantity of new and repair work. The Delaney shipyard has special facilities for repairing river steamers and barges. Several river steamers have been built here in recent years. Many men find employment at good wages in these yards.

The Benicia Arsenal, the United States Army headquarters for

ordnance work on the Pacific Coast is an extensive plant. It employs a number of high class mechanics and pays from \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year in wages. The Benicia barracks is the headquarters of Army Signal Corps on this coast, two companies being maintained there. The enlisted men are a factor to the business interests of Benicia, while the supplies purchased at the two stations amount to a very material sum every month in the year.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, VACAVILLE, SOLANO COUNTY.

GREEN VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

North of Vallejo and Benicia Townships is Green Valley, showing in miniature the general characteristics of the county. On the west side its boundary is the summit of the foothills, its valley is one of the prettiest spots in the county, and its borders extend to the tule marsh that lines Suisun Bay. Its products are fruit, grain, livestock, dairy products and manufactured products. About 500 acres are planted to vines and an equal area to fruit trees. The Jones' orchard the largest cherry orchard in the State, is in this valley. In some years it has shipped the earliest fruit to market. During the season 1,000 people are employed picking and packing fruit on this single holding.

The dairy interests of this section are considerable, fully 1,000 milch cows being kept. The cream, shipped to various points, amounts to \$30,000 annually. The shipment of eggs average one hundred cases a month. In this township are from 4,000 to 5,000 acres of grazing land, from which 750 head of beef are sold each year.

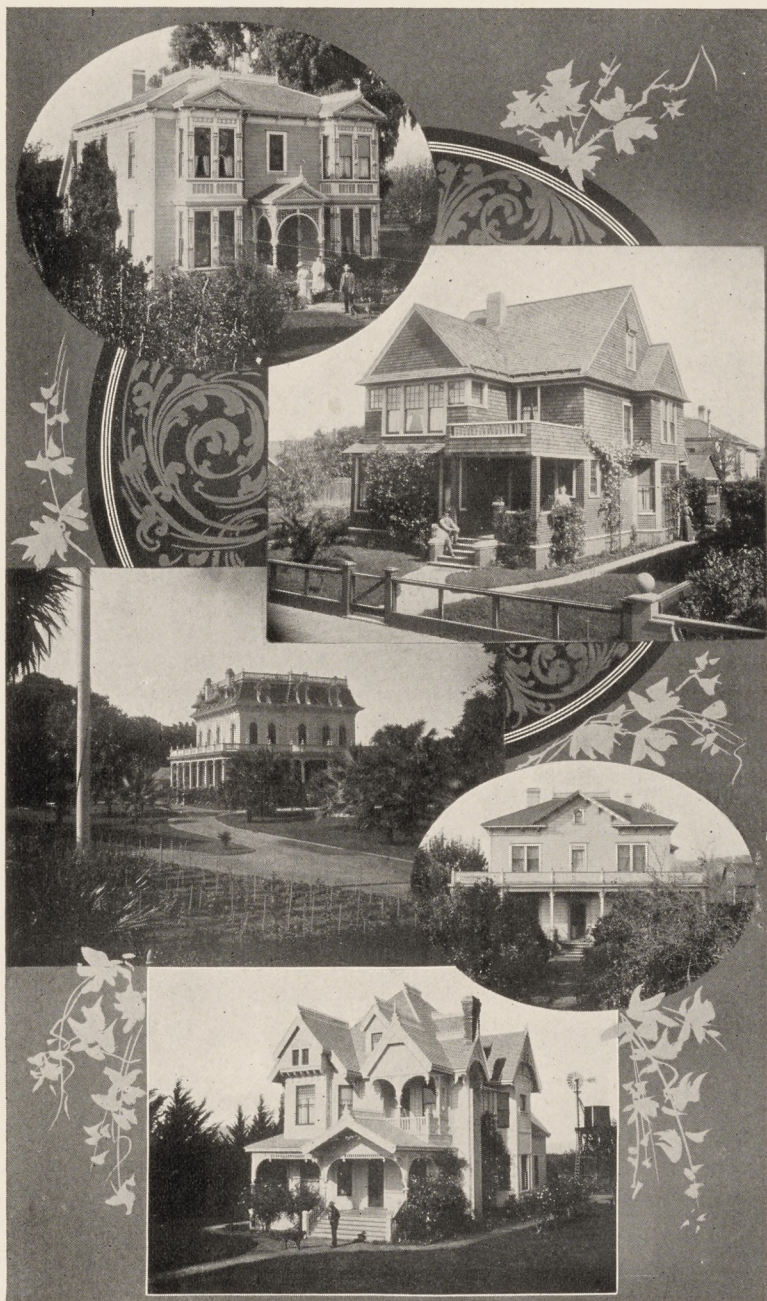
The wine industry is an extensive one in Green Valley. Over 150 carloads of grapes are received each year in addition to the grapes grown here and the output of the three wineries exceeds 600,000 gallons per year.

The great industrial output of the township is crushed rock and building stone. The E. B. & A. L. Stone Co. have a quarry on a hill of 250 acres arising abruptly from the valley. Their crushers have a capacity of 200 tons per hour. In addition an extremely valuable building stone underlies the entire hill. It is a volcanic tufa, easily worked, and will be a source of great income to the community. The company has a railroad system, the yard having five tracks, placed under the storage bins to facilitate loading cars, a private spur connecting the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Paving blocks are split by machinery and finished by hand, being loaded on cars by a cable running past the cutting floors, gravity being utilized. The crushed rock will be washed and marketed perfectly clean, the debris forming a valuable by-product. The company employs 125 men and the annual pay roll amounts to over \$100,000.

The only town in Green Valley Township is Cordelia, a very prosperous community. A good public school is located here, and one church, used by the several denominations. There is also a Methodist church at Rockville. There are four school districts in the township teaching the highest grammar grades, while the pupils of advanced standing attend the Union High School at Fairfield.

SUISUN TOWNSHIP.

One of the most productive townships in the county is Suisun, which adjoins Green Valley on the east, and extends southward to the



PALATIAL HOMES BUILT FROM THE PRODUCT OF THE SOIL, SUISUN, SOLANO COUNTY

Bay. In the western portion is Suisun Valley, a wonderfully fertile fruit section, which is one vast orchard, producing all varieties of fruit of the richest flavor and the highest market value. It is raised without irrigation and produces a value of over \$1,000,000 a year. The valley contains thousands of Bartlett pear trees, which bear the finest fruit shipped to eastern markets. Cherries of the choicest varieties are also grown in the valley and are sold in the eastern market for the best prices. Probably one-tenth of the fresh fruit shipped from Suisun consists of this highest priced product. The apricot, peach and plum outputs assume immense proportions. The yearly shipments will exceed 300 refrigerated carloads of fresh fruit worth over a third of a million dollars.

The dried fruit business of the township is also of great volume. Two large packing houses, the J. K. Armsby Company and the Ernst Luehning Company, employ hundreds of people for six months each year, expending over \$10,000 a month for wages. The yearly shipments of dried fruits and almonds amount to over a million dollars. Dried fruit is brought from different sections of the county, graded and shipped to eastern and foreign markets, always bringing remunerative prices. The average return for a carload of fifteen tons is \$1,200 for fruit, while almonds bring \$2,000 per car load.

The most important industrial enterprise in Suisun and one of the great sources of wealth in Solano County is the Cement Works of the Pacific Portland Cement Co., located about six miles northeast of Suisun. .

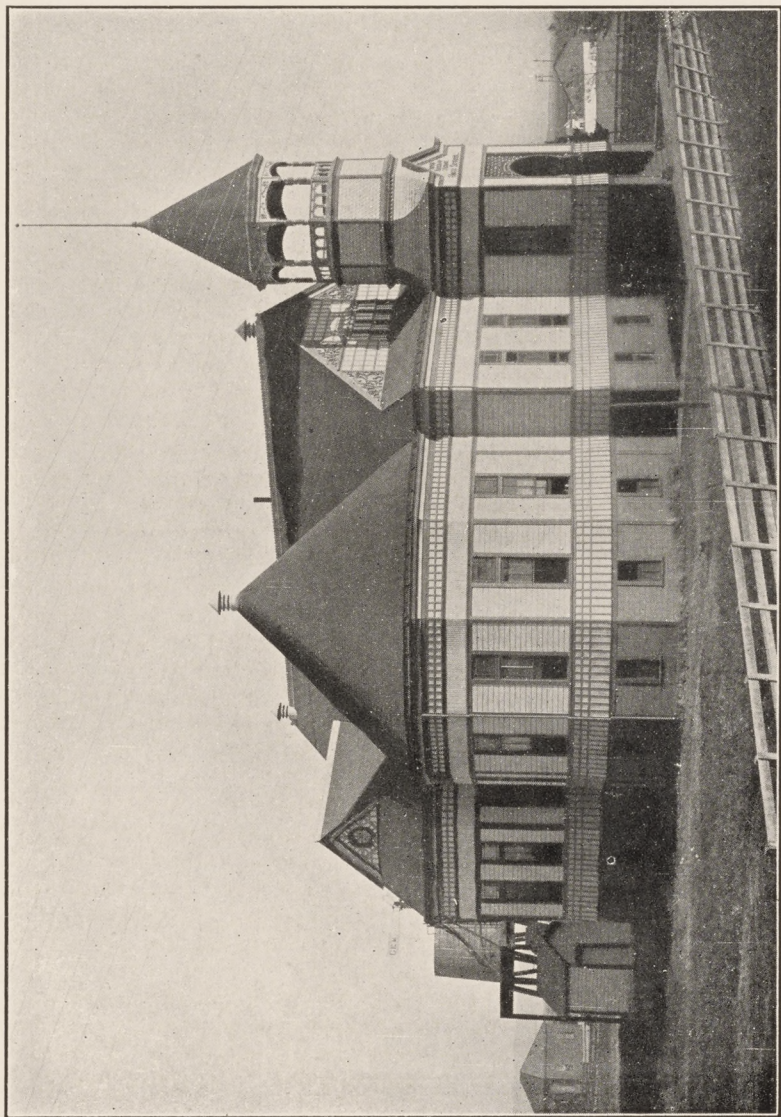
This great plant has a capacity of 2,200 barrels daily. The quality of the product is the equal of any Portland cement and is in use by the U. S. Government, municipal governments, railroads, architects and engineers of the Pacific Coast. The construction of this factory has occasioned the founding of the town of Cement where all the employees live, ether in cottages or in the company's boarding houses. The corporation has erected a school house and largely maintains the school; has built and thoroughly equipped a hospital for the benefit of all sick or injured employees who may need medical attention. The mill affords employment for more than two hundred men, is of modern construction and operated by electricity. Crude oil is used for incinerating the material. The power is derived from the lines of the Bay Counties Power Company.

Suisun is also the center of a large grain section. Having facilities for water freighting, 30,000 tons of grain yearly passes through its warehouse. Great quantities of hay and wool are also shipped from this point, the excellent facilities bringing the volume of business. The livestock business of Suisun Township figures as a splendid asset, at least a hundred carloads of beef cattle being shipped annually. Poultry raising is a constantly increasing industry, one establishment bringing a return of \$1,200 to \$1,500 per year on eight acres of land with an investment of less than \$2,000.

Hogs in great numbers are raised on the tule islands that border

Suisun Bay, being an important by-product of the dairies.

The great area of marsh land in Suisun Township has been partially reclaimed and is largely used for dairy purposes. Grizzly and Joyce Islands support over 4,000 head of milch cows, the profit on which varies from \$20 to \$30 per head. Each dairy farm has modern machinery and separates the cream, which is shipped as a rule and



ARMILJO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, FAIRFIELD, SOLANO COUNTY

the skimmed milk used for feeding calves and hogs. Some of the ranchers market their butter. The land adjacent to these islands is easily capable of reclamation and will then be worth \$100 an acre, whereas now it is valued at \$15 and \$20 per acre. This is one of the finest openings in California for men of capital and enterprise.

SUISUN and FAIRFIELD.

The population of the township is mainly located in the adjoining towns of Suisun and Fairfield. The latter is the county seat. Suisun is the shipping point for a wide section, having both water and rail communications. A steam vessel owned by Suisun people, plies regularly to San Francisco, and hauls freight for the adjoining country as far as Vacaville and Elmira. Suisun is the center of the electric lines for which franchises have been granted in the county, and is also on the line of the proposed new railroad for which rights of way have been purchased through the Vacaville fruit belt, and will continue to be one of the principal shipping points in the county.

Both Suisun and Fairfield have town governments. Suisun owns its water system, and provides an abundant supply of pure water for domestic use at low cost, also supplying a portion to Fairfield. Lights are provided by a private corporation, the power being obtained from the Bay Counties lines. A natural gas well is located a few miles from Suisun and pipes are laid to convey it to Suisun for domestic purposes. The supply exceeds 100,000 cubic feet daily and the gas can be profitably supplied to consumers at a very low figure.

Suisun is progressive and has macadamized streets. There is a splendid public school for which a special tax is voted every year, and the Armijo Union High School at Fairfield is one of the best educational assets of the community. The churches are the Catholic, Congregational, and Episcopal denominations. Two splendid weekly newspapers are published here and the Armijo Social Club, a very liberal institution has a handsome home at which visitors are welcome. The fraternal organizations include blue lodge, chapter and Eastern Star of the Masons, the subordinate lodge and Rebekah lodge of the Odd Fellows, the K. of P., N. S. G. W., W. O. W., and A. O. U. W.

Property values in Suisun are very stable, the wealth of the community per capita being large. Store rentals range as high as \$75 per month. An enterprising local corporation owns the semi-marsh land between Suisun and Fairfield and has made a contract to fill it in, when some splendid sites for business and residence purposes will be available for building operations. Suisun has two banks to handle its large financial affairs.

Fairfield, the county seat, has a much larger area than Suisun, though much of the business community is centered in the latter. The county seat has recently been incorporated, and a number of civic improvements have been inaugurated. A high degree of local



CHURCHES IN THE GREAT FRUIT BELT CITY

pride obtains here and the town will go rapidly ahead. The schools are well managed, the Armijo High School being located here. Town lots may be purchased at a reasonable figure, and every inducement is offered for home seekers. Many people obtain water from the Suisun works, while a private system, pumping from wells, affords competition in supply and price.

It is not out of the range of possibility that Suisun and Fairfield will eventually merge into one municipality, to the advantage of the people of both towns. Fairfield has two energetic improvement clubs and a grove of the U. A. O. D. The Methodist congregation has a commodious church.

VACAVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Much wider than the knowledge of Solano County, rich as it is in resources and prosperity, is the fame of Vaca Valley, which lies in the heart of Vacaville Township. In every fruit center of the United States, the product of this unequaled section is known as the earliest fruit placed on the market anywhere. The township includes 115 square miles of land, the most productive portion of which is located in Vaca Valley, Lagoon Valley to the south, and Pleasant Valley to the north, with the adjoining hills which surround them on all sides. In all there are approximately 15,000 acres planted in fruit, the general ratio being 100 trees to the acre. In addition are a number of extensive vegetable fields, the produce of which is invariably first in the San Francisco market and bring the highest price. These shipments begin in February—in midwinter—and have an advantage of about a month over other sections, the remarkably high prices received netting the growers a handsome income. It is estimated that \$50,000 a year is received by vegetable growers here, a profit of \$150 per acre being nothing unusual.

The fruit shipments from the Vacaville section are unexcelled anywhere. The gross sales per year reach the enormous total of \$2,500,000. Early cherries, shipped during the first days of April, bring from \$3,500 to \$4,000 per carload, and the prices received through the season average \$3,000 per car. The record price for a single box of ten pounds is \$100 paid at auction in 1905 at Philadelphia. The cherries grown in this section are noted for flavor and shipping qualities, and the returns received by the growers are almost incredulous. One grower in 1901 cleared \$2,200 from ninety cherry trees, while another grower has netted \$2,000 a year from nine acres of cherries. A single tree on the choicest land in the section has produced a net profit of \$185 a year.

While cherries bring the highest price they constitute but three per cent of the fresh fruit shipments from Vacaville. Apricots and early plums follow the cherry season, with peaches, pears and grapes in rapid succession, keeping the shippers busy till late in the fall. In 1903 the total shipments of fresh fruit from Vacaville were

1,400 carloads. The average proportion of shipments would be twenty-five per cent each peaches and plums, twenty per cent table grapes, fifteen per cent pears, ten per cent apricots, three per cent cherries and two per cent miscellaneous. The percentage of cherries is increasing owing to the high profits. Plums will bring an average of \$1,250 per car and other fruits average \$1,000 per car.

The shipment of fruit is mainly in the hands of five large concerns, though each grower's product is treated as an individual consignment, and sold as a unit. This gives those who use the greatest care in packing the best returns, the appearance and condition of the fruit being the factors in the price obtained. The cars are routed to avoid competition in the eastern markets, no greater quantity being sent to any locality than can be disposed of to the best advantage.

So large a quantity of the fruit being sold in the east the proceeds are largely affected by the local crop on the Atlantic seaboard. Should that portend serious competition with the Vacaville product the growers refrain from shipping, and dry their fruit. The fruit being non-irrigated carries a minimum degree of moisture and the evaporated product averages from sixteen to fifty per cent of the ripe fruit in weight. The record for 1902 was 450 carloads of dried fruit, aggregating 6,750 tons, of which approximately one-third were French prunes valued at \$900 per car load, one-half were apricots and peaches worth \$2,100 and \$1,800 per car, and the balance mixed fruits and nuts worth \$1,500 per car. It will be seen that this immense output disposed of an even greater volume of fruit than the fresh shipments. In addition to these aggregates were about 100 car loads of fresh fruit sold in California and the northwest and probably thirty or more carloads of select fruit sold to canneries.

The handling of this immense volume of fruit requires a great army of workers, and the fruit season adds at least 5,000 souls to the population of Vacaville township. Men, women and children receive good wages for easy work. White labor is preferred to Chinese and Japanese when it can be obtained, and the leading men of the community have taken steps to induce white people to spend the fruit season in this section where ideal conditions enable them to combine pleasure and profit during the summer.

VACAVILLE.

The town of Vacaville is beautifully located in the heart of Vaca Valley. It is a rich community, with splendid schools and churches, and all that goes to make residence desirable. There is a town government, good volunteer fire department, public library, splendid public school housed in a brick building, and employing six teachers, a Union High School with a staff of five teachers, fully accredited by the State University. Water is pumped from wells by a private corporation, and electric lights are supplied from the Bay Counties

Power lines. Dwelling lots cost from \$100 to \$750 and dwellings rent from \$5 to \$15 per month. Business lots are worth \$40 a front foot and store rentals range from \$15 to \$50 per month. Building operations are active, the community having a greater proportion of handsome homes, surrounded by semi-tropical gardens, than any other place in the county. Buck Avenue, the leading residence street, would attract favorable comment in a city of 50,000 population.

Vacaville has handsome churches occupied by the Advent, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian denominations, while an Episcopal Mission is maintained in I. O. O. F. Hall.

The leading fraternities are well represented. Masonic bodies include blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and a chapter of the Eastern Star. The Odd Fellows have subordinate, encampment and Rebekah degrees. The K. of P., N. S. G. W., W. O. W., and W. O. W. have branches here. The Ulatis Club, a social organization has commodious quarters for the pleasure of members and guests. A steam laundry and bottling works are included in the town's industries, while a prosperous bank and many attractive mercantile establishments do a large business. The Steiger rock quarry north of town, has a crushing plant with a capacity of 125 tons daily. The roads throughout the township are kept in excellent condition at all times.



TRAINING SHIP INTREPID, BUILT AT MARE ISLAND, SOLANO COUNTY

COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

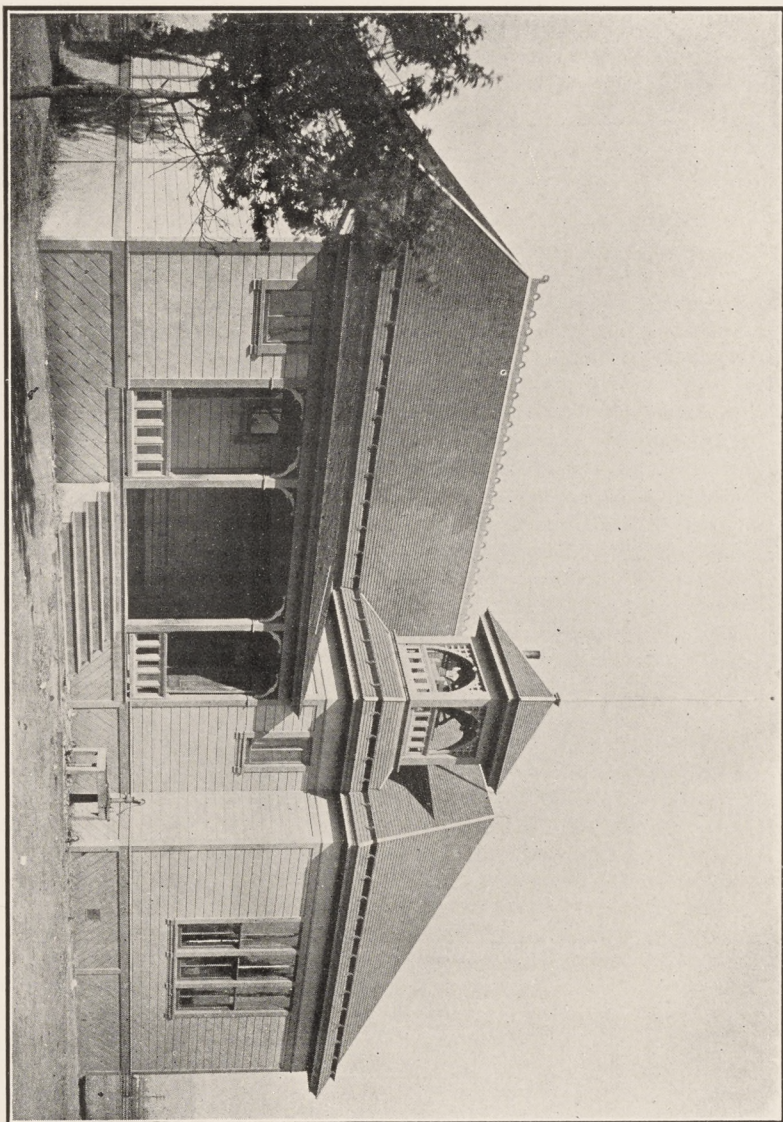
Beside the excellent schools in Vacaville, there are eleven district schools in the township, where the primary and grammar grades are taught, the pupils, after completing their studies there, being eligible for entry into the high school. The splendid educational facilities of this section will compare favorably with similar institutions anywhere.

SILVEYVILLE AND TREMONT TOWNSHIPS.

Northern Solano is composed of these townships, which are a part of the Sacramento Valley. The northerly line of each is Putah Creek and they extend southward for miles along stretches of rolling and level land of great fertility, producing heavy crops. The belt of land adjacent to Putah Creek is a rich sandy loam, in which fruit trees and vegetables thrive and produce remarkable crops. To the southward of this is the "Dixon Ridge," in reality a former bed of Putah Creek. This is a rich sediment land and has a high value for all purposes. Great acreages are planted to grain in both townships, which lie side by side. From a belt from six to eight miles south of Putah Creek are sold great quantities of almonds, apricots, peaches, prunes, pears and grapes, while citrus fruits are raised in commercial quantities. The orange crop on the Currey Place in this tract has never failed. This section raises the finest tomatoes in California, averaging twenty-five tons to the acre. They are put up at the Dixon cannery, where it is not an unusual thing to add water to them when cooking, so firm is the natural product. There is a constantly increasing area devoted to alfalfa, which is irrigated from wells. The water is found in unlimited quantities at a slight depth and is raised by electric pumps. The land yields five and six crops per year, the aggregate making ten to twelve tons of hay per acre. The dairy interests keep in close touch with the subdivision of the larger tracts of land and the increase of alfalfa and irrigation.

Though northern Solano has two townships, the business center is the town of Dixon. The other railroad stations and shipping points are Tremont and Batavia. The principal grain crop in the entire section is barley, which is farmed with the best modern labor-saving machinery. The yield averages twenty-five sacks to the acre. The yearly shipments are 8,000 to 10,000 tons of grain from Dixon, 6,000 from Tremont and from 5,000 to 7,000 from Batavia. Maine Prairie is a water point on Montezuma Slough to which grain is hauled in large quantities from these townships and shipments of 16,000 tons of grain per year are made. The aggregate has been as high as 20,000 tons per year. The land throughout Silveyville Township is very rich and this township has the highest assessed valuation in the county. Tremont is also a rich section, the southern portion

being a heavy adobe soil especially adapted for grain. The extreme eastern border is adjacent to the Yolo Basin, and is damaged at times by high water. The completion of the reclamation scheme for the Sacramento River will obviate this and the land in question will be extremely valuable.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ELMIRA, SOLANO COUNTY

DIXON.

The town of Dixon is an enterprising little community on the main railroad line. It has a town government, and a light and water corporation affording adequate supplies of both facilities. The line of the Bay Counties Power Company passes through the town furnishing power to all industries. The population is about 1,000. There is good fire protection, rents are very reasonable, from \$5 to \$15 for dwellings, and from \$15 to \$100 for stores. Dwelling lots are worth from \$100 upwards and business property \$125 per front foot. Good elementary schools and a high school afford educational facilities. Fraternities are well established, the Masonic bodies including blue lodge, chapter and Eastern Star. The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs have solid branches. There are K. of P., W. O. W., W. O. W., A. O. U. W., and F. of A. There are three fraternal halls. A bank with a capital of \$500,000 does a good business. The tax rate is about sixty-five cents for municipal purposes. Liquor licenses are \$75 per quarter, others being nominal.

A feature of this section of the county is the telephone systems which center in Dixon. Every farm for miles is connected, the original lines having been simply barbed wire fences. The telephone system covers an area of fifty miles and more in extent reaching a long distance into Yolo County.

A pleasing element of life in Dixon is an excellent brass band, which gives frequent air open concerts. The industries of the place are extensive and include a cannery, creamery and flour mill beside grain warehouses, machine shops, bottling works, and several large mercantile establishments.:

The Foster Cannery has an annual pack of 25,000 cases of tomatoes, 15,000 cases of peaches, and 10,000 cases of apricots. The management contracts for the planting of at least 200 acres of tomatoes annually and receives quantities of fruit from other sections. About 200 hands are employed for about five months in the season. The output of this cannery is sold to a great extent in Oregon and Washington.

The Dixon creamery has a yearly output of 300,000 pounds of butter, and distributes \$60,000 to the dairymen each year. The butter is gildedged, and is all handled by one of the largest retail firms in San Francisco, the creamery always getting above the market price. The business is increasing yearly in every respect. The concern is owned by local capital.

The Dixon flour mill has a capacity of fifty barrels of flour and a carload of crushed barley daily. It supplies the local market for a wide area and also ships flour and feed as far as Nevada.

The shipments from Dixon include a great quantity of early vegetables and eggs, fifty cases of the latter being sent daily in season. There are only half a dozen exclusive poultry farms in the vicinity, but the large margin of profit has led a number to take it

up and the business promises to expand very rapidly.

Every year there are twenty-five carloads of dried fruit and ten carloads of almonds shipped from Dixon. A large portion of the output of this prolific section is hauled to Winters and Davis, towns located just across the line in Yolo County. The largest almond growers in Tremont township belong to the Davisville Almond Association and their product is sold at that point. Fifteen carloads of melons raised every year on the bottoms south of Putah Creek, are sold in Yolo County.

CLIMATE.

The climate of this section is superb. The north winds which cause some detriment in the Sacramento Valley are spent by the time they reach Dixon, and have only the beneficial effects of drying up moisture that would otherwise cause rank vegetation and malarial conditions. The nights are cool, moist bay breezes insuring an equable temperature. In harvest time, the moisture from these winds, with the reduction in temperature, forms a heavy dew, so that harvesting cannot begin until the sun has been up several hours.

The Dixon churches include handsome structures of the Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations, all of which are well sustained.

In addition to the excellent graded schools of Dixon there are ten district schools in Northern Solano, seven being in Silveville and three in Tremont township.

ELMIRA TOWNSHIP.

Occupying the central section of the county, Elmira Township has a variety of resources. It comprises forty-five square miles, all uplands. The soil varies, that portion adjoining Vacaville being remarkably fertile, while the eastern portion of the township is devoted to grazing. Splendid crops of barley are raised in this section, while the town of Elmira is the great wool center of the county, \$75,000 worth of fleeces being shipped from here annually. Dairying is extensive, the cream being sold at Dixon and Benicia. A great amount of poultry and eggs are raised in this section and 100 carloads of hogs are included in its annual output. 1,000 tons of hay and 3,000 tons of barley are shipped from Elmira, while a considerably larger portion of the crop is moved by water. The town of Elmira is a prosperous little community, being the junction of the Vaca Valley and Southern Pacific railroads. It has a good school, Catholic, Christian and Methodist churches administer to the needs of the residents. The fraternal societies include Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Independent Foresters organizations, the membership extending to the farming section that is tributary to the town. Elmira Township is not thickly settled as some portions of the county, yet four district schools

are maintained in addition to the school at Elmira.

DENVERTON TOWNSHIP.

This section of the county, sixty square miles in extent, is a vast farming and grazing section, on what is known as "the plains." It is mainly level, though its southern portion is rolling land, the borders of the noted Montezuma Hills. Denverton is bound to attract a larger population, and offers special attractions to the home-seeker of limited means. The soil, in a great area, is especially adapted to poultry raising, being gravelly with ample water a short distance below the surface. There are some very large holdings in the township, vast flocks of sheep and large herds of cattle being owned here. There is a shipping point on Nurses' Slough at Denverton, where is a brick warehouse, in which about 16,000 sacks are stored and shipped each year, being hauled from the adjacent ranches. Denverton township has ample school facilities, there being four schools within its confines.

MAINE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

This township, like the other central portion of Solano County, is purely a farming section, with large areas devoted to grazing. The township has an area of eighty square miles, of which approximately one quarter is marsh land capable of reclamation. Montezuma Slough, a navigable water way, runs through the township and affords shipping facilities at very reasonable rates. There are 10,000 acres in the township planted each year to barley, the yield running as high as twenty sacks to the acre. The shipments from Maine Prairie average 12,000 to 16,000 tons of barley yearly and have been as high as 20,000 tons, the value approximating half a million dollars. Of the sheep in the county fully twenty per cent are owned in this township, and the output of wool and lambs adds a large amount to the income of the owners. The township will gain materially from the realization of the reclamation plans, which are now under consideration in the county.

Beside Maine Prairie, which has a shipping point and postoffice, the little village of Binghampton, with a school, church, postoffice and stores, is the only settlement in the township. The telephone system extends throughout the section and communication is as easy as in a large city. The schools in the township are in Binghamton and Maine Prairie.

MONTENZUMA TOWNSHIP.

The most noted grain section in all California, where the best milling wheat in the State is grown, is the Montezuma Hills, whose bases are washed on the east by the Sacramento River, and whose

slopes on the south merge in the swamp land bordering Suisun Bay. These hills lie in Montezuma and Rio Vista Townships. The former has fifty square miles of area, of which one-fifth is marsh land. The balance is wonderfully rich adobe, upon which wheat has been raised continually for half a century. These hills produce annually 50,000 tons of wheat, which is shipped from Bird's Landing, Meehan's Landing, Dadaimi's Landing and Rio Vista. In addition every farm has much stock, cattle and sheep being owned in hundreds, and forming a substantial revenue in addition to the fortunes derived each year from cereals. Sheep do remarkably well. The flocks are graded, a large infusion of thoroughbred blood maintaining a standard which produces the best results in wool and mutton.

Montezuma Township has two towns. Bird's Landing is a prosperous community, doing business for a large section. Here is located a handsome brick building owned by the local Odd Fellows Lodge. It is typical of the rich country surrounding it. Collinsville is the other town, located at the mouth of the Sacramento River. It has a school, and Episcopal and Catholic churches. There is a Methodist church at Shiloh Landing. Collinsville is the shipping point for a large dairy business lying on the mainland, the dairies in the vicinity having 1,500 cows. The output of calves, hogs, poultry and eggs is large, of the latter the average being ten cases daily. Collinsville is also a fishing center, many boats having headquarters here. About 400 tons of salmon, caught in the lower reaches of the Sacramento, are shipped during the year, there being two seasons. Both lines of steamers running on the Sacramento River make Collinsville a regular landing place, affording communication both ways every day. A large acreage of fine bottomland near Collinsville has been planted to asparagus, and quantities of this highly profitable grass are shipped during the season.

RIO VISTA.

The eastern borders of the county are marked by Rio Vista Township, past which the Sacramento River runs. An arm of that stream forms Ryer Island, which is a very rich tract of 12,000 acres, fully reclaimed, and a great factor in the wealth of the township and the county. Rio Vista Township includes a portion of the Montezuma Hills, and also many thousands of acres of river bottom land, which will increase greatly in value when permanently protected from the overflow of the river. Local levees have been built, but the water from the Yolo Basin, which leaves the river one hundred miles to the northward, causes the trouble. The remedy is only a matter of time, the United States and State authorities having taken steps to rectify the channel of the stream.

Rio Vista is a great shipping point. The grain and wool from the rich surrounding country passes mainly through its three ware-

houses. The barley, beans, potatoes and other products of Ryer Island are shipped directly over the levees saving the expense of hauling. This township has a gross production exceeding two millions annually, the farmers working their places on the most approved lines, having grain as a staple, but with thousands of sheep, hogs and



PUBLIC SCHOOL, RIO VISTA, SOLANO COUNTY

cattle, giving a constant source of revenue the year round. The river passes their doors, carrying millions in freight every year from the entire Sacramento Valley. Just across the river are the rich islands in Sacramento County—Sherman, Brannan and Grand Islands—which are tributary to Rio Vista in business affairs. This combined area has a population of at least 10,000 and a value of many million dollars. It will make connection with the railroads by a line from Rio Vista through Solano County, which will tend directly to the advantage of Rio Vista.

RIO VISTA.

The town of Rio Vista, with a population of 850 is one of the oldest in California, having been founded prior to the discovery of gold. It was originally located above what is now called Newton Landing, just north of the present site at the base of the Montezuma Hills, where the town was moved to 1862, after a disastrous overflow of the Sacramento River. The municipality is an incorporated town, which owns the water system, the water being pumped from the river. A high pressure pump gives ample pressure to guard against fire. The town has an excellent public school, while St. Gertrude's Academy, a private day and boarding school maintained by the Sisters of Mercy, has a State wide reputation. The course of study includes elementary and high school subjects, as taught in the public schools of the State, with a business college department, and special instructions in music, drawing and painting. There are thirty-two Sisters in the community, of whom eighteen are engaged in teaching. There are 110 boarders and seventy-five day pupils in the Academy, while an auxiliary department, situated a short distance from the academy, has fourteen boys receiving instructions similar to those given the young ladies. The churches at Rio Vista are the Catholic, Congregational and Methodist.

Rio Vista is a very prosperous town. Rents for dwellings are from \$16 to \$20 per month and store rents are from \$10 to \$50. Residence lots cost from \$150 upwards and business lots from \$500 upwards. A large lumber yard and planing mill, receiving cargoes direct from ocean going vessels, affords material for building in a wide area both of Solano and Sacramento Counties along the river.

The industries of Rio Vista include a cannery operated by local capital. It has a gross capacity of 1,000 cases daily and packs each year about 15,000 cases of fruit, tomatoes, beans, peas and sweet corn valued at \$250,000. The labor employed is secured from the vicinity as far as possible.

Another industry is a tule factory, where life preservers, packing mats, and cases are made from tule of a peculiar fiber. This business is constantly growing, a hundred men being employed in cutting the tule and manipulating it for the market in its various forms. A por-

tion of the output is shipped to Europe at regular intervals.

Rio Vista has a machine shop capable of doing all ordinary machine work, and all the auxiliaries of a prosperous community. An excellent weekly paper is published and a bank adds materially to the business of the town. Its patrons extending over a wide area. The climate is moderate, the heat of summer being modified by cooling breezes from the bay. Numerous handsome homes, with tropical plants growing in profusion, add to the attractiveness of the streets.

The fraternal societies owning halls are the Masons and Odd Fellows in conjunction, the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Knights of Pythias. There are organizations of Rebekahs, the Rathbone Sisters and Eastern Star, a court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and branches of both great Portuguese Benovelent Societies. The Rio Club has a well appointed club house and is a headquarters for the progressive people of the community. Four district schools flourish in the township outside Rio Vista.

The water shipping facilities of Rio Vista are unexcelled. Three warehouse and wharf firms handle commodities of all kinds, the annual tonnage of grain being over 10,000, while much hay, flaxseed, wool and other products are shipped from these points. The gross shipments of fresh fish, mainly salmon, from Rio Vista are 365 tons per year. Game is also shipped in immense quantities during the season, Rio Vista being the center for scores of professional hunters and many other sportsmen, who get large bags in the sloughs and overflowed lands.

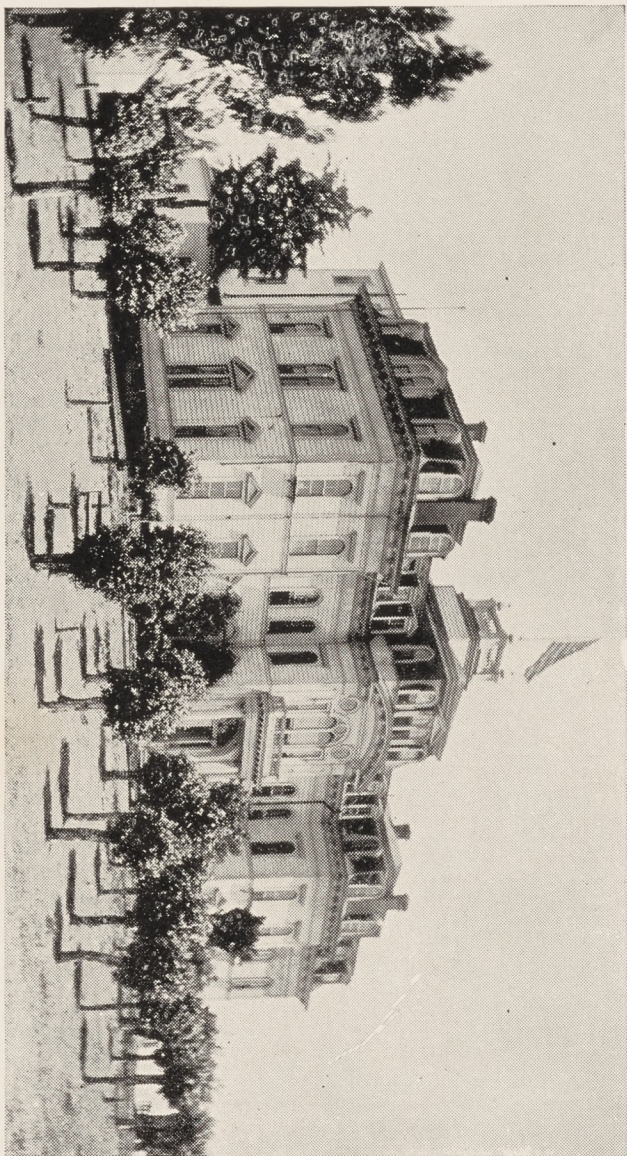
RYER ISLAND.

Ryer Island, one of the richest pieces of land in California, is in Rio Vista Township. It consists of 12,000 acres of delta land in the Sacramento River, and is protected by strong levees. Barley is grown on 7,000 acres, producing from forty to sixty sacks to the acre. Beans are planted on 3,000 acres, yielding from thirty to forty-five sacks, averaging eighty-five pounds in weight, to the acre. Bartlett pears, peach and plum trees number 16,000. Potatoes average 230 sacks to the acre on 200 acres. The area planted to asparagus is 400 acres, and a cannery is under consideration to pack the succulent grass directly from the field, so it will lose none of its crispness and flavor. The growth of flax and hemp has been carried on for years, the hemp growing to a height of sixteen feet and yielding 1,500 pounds of fiber to the acre. This product is sent to Oakland to be made into baling rope, which is thirty to forty-five per cent stronger than ordinary rope.

The island has cross levees and good roads. It is a remarkable section, the land being always kept moist from the river, and a failure of crops is unknown. Sheep to the number of 16,000 are fattened on the island each year, being turned into the stubble and later into the

grain fields, this means being taken to prevent a too rank growth of grain.

Wood Island, opposite the town of Rio Vista, has a shipyard where river steamers are built and repaired, many men being constantly employed there.



GOOD TEMPLARS HOME FOR ORPHANS, NEAR VALLEJO, SOLANO COUNTY

GROSS VALUE OF THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF SOLANO CO.

Fruit.....	\$5,000,000
Grain.....	3,500,000
Hay.....	200,000
Vegetables.....	150,000
Beans.....	250,000
Canned Goods.....	600,000
Wine.....	125,000
Live Stock.....	500,000
Dressed Meats.....	150,000
Wool.....	150,000
Dairy Products.....	500,000
*Poultry and Eggs.....	100,000
Building materials.....	2,000,000
Leather.....	2,000,000
Flour.....	2,000,000
Other manufactures.....	3,000,000
Pickled Fish.....	200,000
Fresh Fish.....	50,000
Quicksilver.....	100,000
Natural Gas.....	25,000
Wages etc., in U. S. Arsenal and Navy Yard.....	2,000,000
	\$22,600,000

*Estimated





TOWN OF RIO VISTA, SOLANO COUNTY, AND WAREHOUSES ON SACRAMENTO RIVER



CONCLUSION.

The facts and figures set forth in the preceding pages have been carefully compiled and completely verified. The showing for the county is as surprising as it is gratifying, and will prove instructive to our own people as well as to outsiders into whose hands it might fall. To these latter we will say that Solano's hospitality fully equals her wealth, and that every inducement is offered to those who wish to come among us and add to our citizenship. There are numerous opportunities for those with capital, great and small, and for those who can contribute in energy and intelligence to the community. The foundation has been well laid, and those who cast their lots with us will find a section unrivalled in its natural advantages, and fully equipped in every way to make prosperous and happy homes.



FROM THE PRESS OF THE



VALLEJO EVENING CHRONICLE

